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ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1983 AND ARKANSAS WILDERNESS ACT OF 1983

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS, FAMILY FARMS,
AND ENERGY

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H.R. 2452 and H.R. 2917

MAY 26, 1983

Serial No. 98-8



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ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1983 AND ARKANSAS WILDERNESS ACT OF 1983

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1983

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS,
FAMILY FARMS, AND ENERGY,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2:10 p.m., in room 1302, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Charles Whitley (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Hansen and Morrison.

Staff present: Peggy L. Pecore, clerk; Charlie Rawls and Rita DiSimone.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES WHITLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. WHITLEY. We expect other witnesses of the subcommittee to be here momentarily, but we have a rather long witness list and in the interest of time I think we will go ahead and proceed. The Chair has a brief opening statement.

I would like to say for the benefit of all those here today that this subcommittee and our full Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs have concurrent jurisdiction on bills that propose to designate areas now included in national forest areas as additions to the Wilderness Preservation System.

Moreover, the Agriculture Committee, and thus this subcommittee, is given jurisdiction, under the House rules, of forestry in general, and forest reserves other than created from the public domain. As a general rule, eastern forests were established from lands acquired by the United States, and not lands that were already part of the public domain. In addition, as a practical matter, since the Department of Agriculture administers and hold legal title to these national forests, it makes sense that the Agriculture Committee investigate proposals of this nature.

I say this for the benefit of those witnesses who wonder why we have two committees looking at the same bill.

Today we are considering two bills: H.R. 2452, the Arkansas and Oklahoma Wilderness Act of 1983, and H.R. 2917, the Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1983. I would also like to say for the benefit of our witnesses and those who are here watching today that this

committee was asked, on rather short notice, to schedule hearings today in order that witnesses who were traveling here from the State of Arkansas to testify before an Interior subcommittee might be accommodated. Because of the rather short notice, a number of our subcommittee members already had other commitments for today and we do not anticipate the level of attendance and participation that we might have had under normal circumstances. Many members had already planned to leave about mid-afternoon today. We plan to conclude our legislative business on the floor, as the members who are here know, rather shortly.

We have a lengthy witness list. I understand that the Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks is still hearing some of these witnesses. But because of the number of witnesses who have asked to be heard and are on the tentative witness list, we would like to ask that those who have prepared statements submit those statements in their entirety for the record with the assurance that they will appear in their entirety in the record; but in your oral testimony, that you be as brief and concise as possible and, if you can do so, to summarize to the extent that you can and then be available for questions from members of the subcommittee.

It may be as we proceed through the list that when we reach witnesses or groups of persons who have the same or very similar interests, we may ask you to come forward to the table sort of as a panel.

[The bills, H.R. 2452 and H.R. 2917, follow:]

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION **H. R. 2452**

1 **DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDERNESS AREAS**

2 **SEC. 2. (a)** In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilder-
3 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) the following lands are
4 designated as wilderness areas and, therefore, as components
5 of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

6 (1) Certain lands within the Ouachita National
7 Forest in the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma which
8 comprise approximately eleven thousand five hundred
9 and sixty acres, are generally depicted on a map enti-
10 tled "Black Fork Mountain Wilderness (proposed)",
11 dated February 1982, and shall be known as the Black
12 Fork Mountain Wilderness.

13 (2) Certain lands within the Ouachita National
14 Forest in the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma which
15 comprise approximately nine thousand one hundred and
16 seventy-two acres, are generally depicted on a map en-
17 titled "Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness (proposed)",
18 dated February 1982, and shall be known as the
19 Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness.

20 (3) Certain lands within the Ouachita National
21 Forest in the State of Arkansas which comprise ap-
22 proximately six thousand three hundred and ten acres,
23 are generally depicted on the map entitled "Dry Creek
24 Wilderness (proposed)", dated April 1983, and shall be
25 known as the Dry Creek Wilderness.

1 (4) Certain lands within the Ouachita National
2 Forest in the State of Arkansas which comprise ap-
3 proximately five thousand three hundred and ninety-
4 eight acres, are generally depicted on the map entitled
5 "Belle Starr Wilderness (proposed)", dated April 1983,
6 and shall be known as the Belle Starr Cave Wilder-
7 ness.

8 (5) Certain lands within the Ozark National
9 Forest in the State of Arkansas which comprise ap-
10 proximately fifteen thousand and fifty-seven acres, are
11 generally depicted on a map entitled "Hurricane Creek
12 Wilderness (proposed)", dated January 1982, and shall
13 be known as the Hurricane Creek Wilderness.

14 (6) Certain lands within the Ozark National
15 Forest in the State of Arkansas which comprise ap-
16 proximately six thousand two hundred and ninety
17 acres, are generally depicted on a map entitled "Rich-
18 land Creek Wilderness (proposed)", dated January
19 1982, and shall be known as the Richland Creek
20 Wilderness.

21 (7) Certain lands within the Ozark National
22 Forest in the State of Arkansas which comprise ap-
23 proximately one thousand five hundred and four acres,
24 are generally depicted on a map entitled "Upper Buffa-
25 lo Wilderness Addition (proposed)", dated January

1 1982, and shall be deemed part of the Upper Buffalo
2 Wilderness, as designated by section 3(a)(3) of the Act
3 of January 3, 1975 (Public Law 93-622; 88 Stat.
4 2097), commonly known as the Eastern Wilderness
5 Act.

6 (b) Except as provided in section 3 and subject to valid
7 existing rights, wilderness areas designated by subsection (a)
8 shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in ac-
9 cordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.),
10 except that any reference in such Act to the effective date of
11 such Act (or any similar reference) shall be deemed to be a
12 reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 (c) As soon as practicable after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit a
15 map and legal description of each wilderness area designated
16 by subsection (a) to the Committee on Energy and Natural
17 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and
18 Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives. Such map
19 and legal description shall have the same force and effect as
20 if included in this Act, except that any clerical or typographi-
21 cal error in such map or legal description may be corrected.
22 The Secretary shall place such map and legal description on
23 file, and make them available for public inspection, in the
24 Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of
25 Agriculture.

1 **WITHDRAWAL OF WILDERNESS AREAS FROM MINING AND**
2 **MINERAL LEASING; PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN EX-**
3 **PLOATION ACTIVITIES**

4 **SEC. 3. (a)** Subject to valid existing rights, for purposes
5 of applying section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
6 1133(d)(3)) to—

7 (1) wilderness areas designated by section 2(a),
8 and

9 (2) wilderness areas within the Ozark and Ouachita
10 National Forests in the State of Arkansas designated
11 by the Congress before the date of the enactment
12 of this Act,

13 references in such section 4(d)(3) to December 31, 1983, and
14 to January 1, 1984, shall be deemed to be references to the
15 date of the enactment of this Act.

16 (b) Subject to valid existing rights, motorized equipment,
17 surface explosives, and shot holes may not be used in
18 the wilderness areas specified in subsection (a) for purposes of
19 exploring for oil, gas, or other minerals.

20 **RELEASE OF LANDS FOR USES OTHER THAN WILDERNESS**

21 **SEC. 4. (a)** Without passing on the question of the legal
22 or factual sufficiency of the final environmental impact statement
23 for the Department of Agriculture's second roadless
24 area review and evaluation (RARE II) (dated January 1979)
25 with respect to national forest system lands in States other

1 than the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma, such statement
2 shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to national
3 forest system lands in the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

4 (b) National forest system lands within the Ozark and
5 Ouachita National Forests in the States of Arkansas and
6 Oklahoma not designated as wilderness areas on or before
7 the date of the enactment of this Act—

8 (1) shall be managed for uses other than wilder-
9 ness in accordance with the Forest and Rangeland Re-
10 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.
11 1600 et seq.) and other provisions of law generally ap-
12 plicable to the management of nonwilderness areas of
13 the national forest system, and

14 (2) shall not be reviewed under section 6 of the
15 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning
16 Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604) or any other provision
17 of law as to their suitability or unsuitability for desig-
18 nation as wilderness areas.

○

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2917

To designate certain public lands in north-central, northwestern, and western Arkansas as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 1983

Mr. BETHUNE introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To designate certain public lands in north-central, northwestern, and western Arkansas as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the "Arkansas Wilderness Act
4 of 1983".

5 SEC. 2. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilder-
6 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), the following lands are
7 hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as compo-
8 nents of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

9 (1) certain lands in the Ouachita National Forest,
10 Arkansas, which comprise approximately eight thou-

1 sand one hundred acres, as generally depicted on a
2 map entitled "Black Fork Mountain Wilderness—Pro-
3 posed", May 1983, and which shall be known as the
4 Black Fork Mountain Wilderness;

5 (2) certain lands in the Ouachita National Forest,
6 Arkansas, which comprise approximately six thousand
7 four hundred and seventy acres, as generally depicted
8 on a map entitled "Dry Creek Wilderness—Proposed",
9 dated May 1983, and which shall be known as the Dry
10 Creek Wilderness;

11 (3) certain lands in the Ozark National Forest,
12 Arkansas, which comprise approximately nineteen
13 thousand seven hundred and twenty-five acres, as gen-
14 erally depicted on a map entitled "East Fork Wilder-
15 ness—Proposed", dated May 1983, and which shall be
16 known as the East Fork Wilderness;

17 (4) certain lands in the Ouachita National Forest,
18 Arkansas, which comprise approximately ten thousand
19 eight hundred and eighty-five acres, as generally de-
20 picted on a map entitled "Flatside Wilderness—Pro-
21 posed", dated May 1983, and which shall be known as
22 the Flatside Wilderness;

23 (5) certain lands in the Ozark National Forest,
24 Arkansas, which comprise approximately sixteen thou-
25 sand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled

1 “Hurricane Creek Wilderness—Proposed”, dated May
2 1983, and which shall be known as the Hurricane
3 Creek Wilderness;

4 (6) certain lands in the Ozark National Forest,
5 Arkansas, which comprise approximately fifteen thou-
6 sand three hundred acres, as generally depicted on a
7 map entitled “Leatherwood Wilderness—Proposed”,
8 dated May 1983, and which shall be known as the
9 Leatherwood Wilderness;

10 (7) certain lands in the Ozark National Forest,
11 Arkansas, which comprise approximately twelve thou-
12 sand and ten acres, as generally depicted on a map en-
13 titled “Penhook Wilderness—Proposed”, dated May
14 1983, and which shall be known as the Penhook Wil-
15 derness;

16 (8) certain lands in the Ouachita National Forest,
17 Arkansas, which comprise approximately seventeen
18 thousand five hundred acres, as generally depicted on a
19 map entitled “Poteau Mountain Wilderness—Pro-
20 posed”, dated May 1983, and which shall be known as
21 the Poteau Mountain Wilderness;

22 (9) certain lands in the Ozark National Forest,
23 Arkansas, which comprise approximately eleven thou-
24 sand seven hundred and ninety acres, as generally de-
25 picted on a map entitled “Richland Creek Wilder-

1 ness—Proposed”, dated May 1983, and which shall be
2 known as the Richland Creek Wilderness;

3 (10) certain lands in the Ozark National Forest,
4 Arkansas, which comprise approximately one thousand
5 five hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map en-
6 titled “Upper Buffalo Wilderness Addition—Pro-
7 posed”, dated May 1983, and which are hereby incor-
8 porated in, and shall be deemed to be part of, the
9 Upper Buffalo Wilderness as designated by Public Law
10 93-622; and

11 (11) certain lands in the Ouachita National
12 Forest, Arkansas, which comprise approximately three
13 hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled
14 “Upper Kiamichi Wilderness—Proposed”, dated May
15 1983, and which shall be known as the Upper Kiami-
16 chi Wilderness.

17 (b) Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas
18 designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary
19 of Agriculture (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the
20 “Secretary”) in accordance with the provisions of the Wil-
21 derness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) governing areas
22 designated by that Act as wilderness except that any refer-
23 ence in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness
24 Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of
25 this Act.

1 (c) As soon as practicable after the date of the enact-
2 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit maps and legal
3 descriptions of each wilderness area designated by subsection
4 (a) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
5 the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture and Interior
6 and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives. Each
7 such map and legal description shall have the same force and
8 effect as if included in this Act, except that any clerical or
9 typographical error in such maps or legal descriptions may be
10 corrected. The Secretary shall place such maps and legal de-
11 scriptions on file, and make them available for public inspec-
12 tion, in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Depart-
13 ment of Agriculture.

14 SEC. 3. (a) The Congress finds that the Department of
15 Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review
16 and evaluation program (RARE II).

17 (b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby
18 determines and directs that—

19 (1) without passing on the question of the legal
20 and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environ-
21 mental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to
22 national forest system lands in States other than Ar-
23 kansas, such statement shall not be subject to judicial
24 review with respect to national forest system lands in
25 the State of Arkansas;

1 (2) with respect to the national forest system
2 lands in the State of Arkansas which were reviewed by
3 the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless
4 area review and evaluation (RARE II), that review
5 and evaluation shall be deemed for the purposes of the
6 initial land management plans required for such lands
7 by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources
8 Planning Act of 1974 as amended by the National
9 Forest Management Act of 1976 to be an adequate
10 consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclu-
11 sion in the National Wilderness Preservation System
12 and the Department of Agriculture shall not be re-
13 quired to review the wilderness option prior to the re-
14 vision of the initial plans and in no case prior to the
15 date established by law for completion of the initial
16 planning cycle;

17 (3) areas in the State of Arkansas reviewed in
18 such final environmental statement and not designated
19 as wilderness by this Act need not be managed for the
20 purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness
21 designation pending revision of the initial plans; and

22 (4) unless expressly authorized by Congress the
23 Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any fur-
24 ther statewide roadless area review and evaluation of
25 national forest system lands in the State of Arkansas

1 for the purpose of determining their suitability for in-
2 clusion in the National Wilderness Preservation
3 System.

○

Mr. WHITLEY. We will now proceed with our first witness, the Honorable Beryl Anthony, a Member of Congress from Arkansas, former member of this committee.

Beryl, we welcome you here and will be glad to receive your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BERYL ANTHONY, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

Mr. ANTHONY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you and the other members of the committee for being willing on short notice to schedule this hearing, because of the cost and the time factor of witnesses traveling to and from Arkansas. You have accommodated their schedules to the detriment of some of your members, and we do thank you for it.

I do have a full statement, and I ask that it be accepted for the record; and I would like to summarize some of the parts that I think are the most important.

There are two national forests in the State of Arkansas, and I would like to make it clear that I have introduced a piece of legislation, although none of the land that is affected resides within my congressional district. I became interested in the wilderness area because I grew up in a forest family, and I know the business. I have learned the business from the ground up, and I have a deep appreciation for setting aside those unique areas for future generations' use and participation in but also have a keen awareness of the economic factors and the benefits to mankind of other areas that have high economic value. And what I have done is tried to strike a very careful balance between the economic factors and those areas that I think truly do hold high value as wilderness. And as a result, I have introduced a piece of legislation that would set aside additional wilderness areas in the State of Arkansas.

The two national forests currently contain one wilderness area designated by the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975, the Upper Buffalo Wilderness, and the Ozark Forest contain 10,542 acres, and the Caney Creek Wilderness in the Ouachita Forest contain 3,244 acres. If the area contained in my legislation become law, the two national forests of Arkansas and Oklahoma would have 80,000 acres of wilderness; I believe that this would be adequate to serve the existing and projected future needs for wilderness.

The RARE II process identified two dozen areas in the two national forests which have many of the criteria desirable as wilderness. Of these, seven have been found to possess the characteristics most desirable as wilderness, including great beauty combined with geological formations, unique in the two mountain ranges. Their habitat and ecosystems reflect the diverse wildlife found in the region and their remoteness from the more developed regions of the State insures that they will not suffer from excess population pressures.

In each area chosen, social and economic factors include an effect on timber sales, employment, school revenues. Economic development criteria were considered as part of the process. And I believe such factors must be considered as very important due to the low per capita income statistics in our State.

On page 3 you will see the areas that I have specifically outlined to be set out as wilderness areas. The first Forest Service recommendations of 1982 covered five areas. In the Ouachita Forest it was the Black Fork Mountain, which is in Arkansas and parts of eastern Oklahoma, 11,560 acres; in the Upper Kiamichi River, again in Arkansas and the eastern part of Oklahoma, of 9,172 acres; and in the Ozark Forest they have Hurricane Creek, 15,057 acres, and the Upper Buffalo addition of 1,504 acres.

Although my written statement has Richland Creek in that area, I have since learned that the Forest Service has not completed its final review, although it has been under study for some 7 years, and I have made a correction and moved it down to two additional areas that also have not completed the finalization under RARE II. But in making a personal observation of them in the Richland Creek area, actually going into it and participating personally by seeing the natural beauty there, I felt that they would be successful; so I did seek to include them in my bill, although the final process has not been completed.

That would include Dry Creek, 6,290 acres, and the Belle Starr Cave, 5,398 acres, and then Richland Creek would be 6,290 acres.

If you took the total acreage in my bill plus the two existing wilderness areas already in existence, it would bring total wilderness acreage to about 80,000 acres. And the areas' inventory during RARE II covered some 225,000 acres of roadless areas in the two national forests of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

And I would like to make a correction. My prepared text did leave out the word "Oklahoma," and I would like to insert the word "Oklahoma" in there as a correction.

If one assumes, then, that the 225,000 acres in the inventoried roadless review plus the 25,000 acres of existing wilderness in the State of Arkansas constitutes the universe of areas within the greatest wilderness potential then H.R. 2452 would designate about one-third of the total universe and would release the other two-thirds for multiple use.

Obviously, if you took out the State of Oklahoma, that figure would drop somewhat below the one-third figure. I put that in there and I think it is important, because the two areas astride the State line were inventoried together in the RARE II process. The State of Arkansas is unique in the fact that most remaining wilderness is in the northwest part, so it would be within John Paul Hammerschmidt's district, and a small portion in Bill Alexander's district.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I believe that H.R. 2452 represents a moderate and a fair resolution of the wilderness issue in Arkansas. The areas in my bill have been through the RARE II process and the final environmental impact has been determined with the exception of the three that I mentioned. My bill includes those areas that are high quality. The marginal areas and areas which did not receive consideration as part of RARE II are not included, and the wilderness areas in H.R. 2452 I consider to be pristine, relatively inaccessible, and worthy of being called wilderness.

The other roadless areas which were reviewed by RARE II should be released and judicial review of the environmental im-

pacts of the Arkansas area should be ended by the passage of H.R. 2452.

I would close by just adding one additional footnote. When they went through the public hearing process in the State of Arkansas, as you can well imagine, it was a fairly controversial issue for the Forest Service. But in the Ozark National Forest alone there are over 3,400 individual inputs on the wilderness question, and over 85 percent of the comments received opposed any additional wilderness. And when you look at three areas that are considered in Mr. Bethune's legislation—Leatherwood, East Fork, and Penhook—each of those areas received approximately 96 percent of the public input as opposing them being placed into a wilderness designation over and above the fact that we think that they do not qualify under the criteria of the roadless review area or criteria.

I think it would be important for this committee to take into consideration the local input from the people back home over and above the judicial determination as to what those lands would classify as under the criteria of the legislation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify before you today.

[The proposed statement of Mr. Anthony appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you for a very fine statement. Let me ask you just a few brief questions.

One, you understand what we are talking about when we talk about release and sufficiency language in this kind of a bill?

Mr. ANTHONY. Yes.

Mr. WHITLEY. What kind of release and sufficiency language is in your bill?

Mr. ANTHONY. My bill would be what I refer to as hard release language. It is a final determination, as opposed to what I refer to as soft release language, which keeps the issue somewhat up in the air and open. Because there is so much opposition or such widespread opposition, let me put it that way, because there are people that will be testifying in support of additional wilderness from the State. But since there is such widespread opposition in that area, the fact that I did add additional areas to be designated as wilderness, my trade-off was to put what I consider to be the hard release language in there. I think that is the careful balance, then, that would be struck for the State of Arkansas.

I am cognizant of the fact that other wilderness bills that have passed in previous votes of the Congress have the softer release language, but each State has its own unique set of circumstances, and I think Arkansas's circumstances are such that with the inclusion of these additional wilderness lands, especially the three that have not received final approval, as a compromise should receive then the hard release language.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you. Have there been any active timber sales in recent years in any of the areas included in your bill?

Mr. ANTHONY. I would have to defer that question to the Forest Service, Mr. Whitley.

Mr. WHITLEY. I will pose it to them when they testify.

Mr. ANTHONY. They will be here to testify, but I understand the answer to that would be no.

Mr. WHITLEY. Are there any private lands within the acreage covered by your bill?

Mr. ANTHONY. Three of the areas would have a small amount of private land ownership.

Mr. WHITLEY. I assume there is no condemnation authority. That would have to be acquired by exchange if they are acquired, is that correct?

Mr. ANTHONY. That would be true, yes.

Mr. WHITLEY. Is there access to those private lands at the present time, or would there be access to those private lands that are included in the wilderness area?

Mr. ANTHONY. One of them I am personally aware of that would be. Again I would have to defer to the Forest Service. I have only been to one of the three, and there is access to one of those. The Forest Service could make a note of that and could answer that for us.

Mr. WHITLEY. And your bill does include a limited amount of land in Oklahoma as I understand it.

Mr. ANTHONY. Mr. Chairman, it does, and I did that for a reason. Mr. Watkins is aware of the fact that the bill has been introduced. I discussed it with him before I introduced the piece of legislation. I would hope that before the committee goes to a markup, that Mr. Watkins either will express for the record his position or at best he will come onboard as a cosponsor of the piece of legislation, and jointly we could move.

The reason I did it is because that national forest does cross the State line, and it just did not——

Mr. WHITLEY. The existing national forest?

Mr. ANTHONY. The existing national forest does cross that State line, but it is only a small portion that is in Oklahoma. The largest part is in the State of Arkansas. And the fact that we are doing this on a State-by-State basis rather than as one large bill, it just made more sense to me to go ahead and include a very small portion of the same national forest in one piece of legislation, rather than having Mr. Watkins and/or somebody from Oklahoma introduce a separate piece of legislation and have to go through the very same process that we are going through in this particular bill.

I think it will conserve your time and efforts, and I think it would also conserve the time and efforts of the Congress in considering them.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Anthony.

Our next witness will be our colleague, Hon. Ed Bethune, Member of Congress from Arkansas.

Mr. Bethune, we will be glad to hear from you, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. ED BETHUNE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mr. BETHUNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Back in 1907-08, President Roosevelt set aside the Ouachita and the Ozark National Forests in our State, and since that time most Arkansans, myself included, have felt comfortable by the fact that there was an effort to preserve some of the national forest. And since that time, and I guess even before the Arkansans have proud-

ly gone around saying that Arkansas is a natural. We like to think that way.

The thing that troubles me nowadays is that I am afraid that we will not be a natural state over time, because if one takes a look at what is happening in the forests, and what is happening outside the forests in the State of Arkansas, you have to be troubled by the extensive clear-cutting practices and other modern techniques that are being employed that naturally disrupt and degrade the natural state of affairs in Arkansas.

This is always troubling to someone of a conservative nature in the first place, because I have a real fondness for natural law and the natural course of events and am always hesitant to disrupt that. That is usually my position on economics and everything else. Let things go the natural way. The Lord had a reason for a lot of things that I am sure we don't even understand yet.

But in any case, with respect to this particular measure, I took a look at this. I flew over all these lands, walked over many of them, drove through them, just sat and looked at a lot of them. I went with the Forest Service. I went with the members of the Arkansas Conservation Coalition. I had a town hall meeting in one of the areas where people are most hostile to the idea of wilderness. I don't know what else I could have done to try to gather up the facts relative to this proposition.

I discovered pretty quickly that you can't look at it in isolation from the standpoint of whether it is the right thing to do in the second district of Arkansas, but you had to consider it as a matter that affected the State of Arkansas and take a comprehensive look. I spent 10 days at that effort last fall, and I believe I talked to everybody that had a viewpoint, and tried to look at all of the lands involved.

It was my conclusion that we should be concerned about the activities that are taking place. Not only the activities that have taken place in the last few years, but the planned activities of the Forest Service. I discovered that they intended to cut, build roads and do other activities in the Flatside area, which would be in my district, and I likewise found that they had 13 planned activities for the East Fork and Leatherwood areas.

At the time that I introduced my bills, it seemed to me the appropriate thing to do was to get a stop order by consent of the Forest Service and the Interior Committee, so that those areas would be preserved at least until this Congress had had a chance to take a look at the issue. That was done. Those activities are not taking place, but I think it does demonstrate the kind of things that will happen if, in fact, we don't designate some of these lands as wilderness.

Now, I said that we have been comforted in Arkansas to know that we had these lands preserved. But as I said, I think people are beginning to be troubled by the fact that there is so much activity both by the private sector and by the Forest Service, and the question that occurs to us, and that occurs to me, is whether or not we will be able to look our children and our children's children in the eye in years to come and say Arkansas is a natural, and not worry about them asking us why do you say that. Because we can't find much land that hasn't been altered in one fashion or another.

My bill is really the compromise bill, if you want to get right down to it. There are a lot of lands out there that would meet the definition of wilderness, measured against the legislation that has passed this Congress. Mr. Anthony mentioned the great number of acres that were under consideration at one time or another. He mentioned the amount that the Forest Service recommends in their bill, and in his bill, which is basically in Arkansas some 42,000 acres. If you add that to the existing wilderness in Arkansas, which is 24,000 acres, you come up to around 68,000 acres. It is not 80,000 acres. I would say that my colleague's addition is wrong.

That is the trouble with including Oklahoma in this package, is that we have a tendency to incorporate their acreage with our acreage and think of it as 80,000. Actually it would be some 68,000 acres in Arkansas.

My bill would set aside 119,000 acres in Arkansas, and when coupled with the 24,500 that is already there, it would be 144,000 acres. I think that is reasonable, because what it works out to be is only 4.8 percent of the national forest land in Arkansas.

Elsewhere in the country they are setting aside some staggering percentiles. We want to set aside 4.8 percent of the national forest land in Arkansas, and protect it from the kind of activities that they are already planning to do. Because once it is done, it is gone, and we can't restore that.

I would also say that with respect to whether or not the people are for this, there has been a considerable amount of interest in the legislation in the last few months, and I read considerably more editorial support for the proposition than I find against it. I find much more support among the people for it, particularly since we have rectified much of the misinformation that was being circulated out there by the Forest Service, and much of the misinformation that carried over from a very distinctly different sort of endeavor, which was the Buffalo River project some years ago.

There is a lot of misinformation out there about what wilderness is and what wilderness is not. I find that as that misinformation is corrected that there is strong support for setting aside what I count a very moderate and modest proposal of 4.8 percent of the national forest land.

In fact, back even when they had the hearings on this and asked for public input some years ago, my colleague mentioned that there was some 83 percent of the people who were opposed to wilderness. But the fact of the matter is there were a number of people who got together and worked out a very elaborate and comprehensive analysis of the RARE II and wilderness concepts, and put it all in a package about the size of this book here and turned it in. It represented the work of hundreds and hundreds of people, and the Forest Service counted that as one, and then counted all of the individual letters and calls that they got, and thus were able to construct the notion that somehow the people were overwhelmingly against the idea of setting aside some land for wilderness.

So I think now that we are really getting into the issue, the people are having a chance to understand the concepts and they realize what it is we are trying to do.

For my own part, Mr. Chairman, I can say honestly that since I have been a Member of the Congress, I can't think of anything that

I feel more strongly about than this particular issue. And the more that I look at it and the more that I talk to people, the more I am satisfied that this is the right approach for the State of Arkansas.

Our people are good. We have beautiful land. We have nothing but progress ahead of us, and I am satisfied that if we will think clearly about this, and protect our natural resources, then it will be in the interests of our State economically and it will be in the interests of our people, and they will then be able to look their children in the eye and say, yes, Arkansas is a natural, and not have to worry about defending that position.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Bethune. Just a few brief questions.

What percentage of the land covered by your bill is actually in your congressional district?

Mr. BETHUNE. I can't say the percentage, Mr. Chairman, but I can say that it is 10,855 acres known as Flatside in Saline and Perry County, Arkansas.

Mr. WHITLEY. 10,000 acres. Out of how many total acres?

Mr. BETHUNE. I guess that works out to a little less than 10 percent, out of 119,000 acres that I would propose.

Mr. WHITLEY. What sort of release sufficiency language do you have in your bill?

Mr. BETHUNE. We have put into the bill the so-called soft release language, which has been adopted by law in 6 other States, and which I understand has found approval in the Committees on the Interior and Agriculture previously, retaining the multiple-use planning requirements of the National Forest Management Act.

Mr. WHITLEY. What result, if any—significant result—do you think there would be on employment in Arkansas if your bill should pass?

Mr. BETHUNE. I think it would be an economic plus for the State of Arkansas to adopt this wilderness approach. Certainly if you measure it in the long term, I think it is an economic plus. The economic analysis that I asked for from the Congressional Research Service indicated that it was actually costing us money, costing the government money to harvest trees in these particular areas, or would cost money to do so, and they made an analysis for me that convinced me that it makes good economic sense to set this land aside as wilderness. And that was not even considering the benefit that it might have to the tourism industry in our State. The parks and tourism department of Arkansas gave me a report which I think suggests that in the long term this would be a great economic advantage to Arkansas in area tourism. That is our second largest industry. So I am satisfied that it is a job creation bill.

Mr. WHITLEY. I am not sure I follow you. What economic benefit other than tourism would derive from your bill? I thought I understood you to say there would be an economic benefit not counting tourism.

Mr. BETHUNE. First of all, the way I understand it, the Government would not lose money by tinkering around in these areas, and so that would be a benefit to the government.

Second, it would create a tourism benefit to the State of Arkansas, and I think all of the attendant and related industries that

flow from the generation of traffic in one State would be the benefits.

Mr. WHITLEY. Are there private lands within acres covered by your bill?

Mr. BETHUNE. Mr. Anthony mentioned the ones that are in his bill. Of course my bill includes all of that, and then in the Leatherwood area there are some inholdings there, roughly in the neighborhood of 400 acres. I might add that I have not had any correspondence or contact from any of the inholders telling me that they are opposed to the bill. I have had contact from three of those inholders saying that they support the bill.

Mr. WHITLEY. I take it that your bill, like Mr. Anthony's and most wilderness bills, do not have any condemnation authority in it?

Mr. BETHUNE. No, sir.

Mr. WHITLEY. Any private land that is acquired would have to be acquired by exchange?

Mr. BETHUNE. That is right.

Mr. WHITLEY. You don't have any problems with access to the private land part of the bill?

Mr. BETHUNE. No, sir, none to my knowledge.

Mr. WHITLEY. And your bill I believe does not include any land in Oklahoma. Yours is all in the State of Arkansas. Is that correct?

Mr. BETHUNE. That is right. My bill does not presume to decide the wilderness issue for the people of Oklahoma.

Mr. WHITLEY. I believe that is all the questions I have, Mr. Bethune. Thank you very much.

Mr. ANTHONY. Mr. Chairman, with your permission I would like to just make reference to one paragraph in my testimony that does go to the economic harm as an analysis that came from the Forest Service. It relates to a question that you asked Mr. Bethune.

On page 4, the Forest Service has calculated that the income to be foregone by my bill if enacted would exceed \$120,000 annually, and the income to be foregone if all areas under consideration become wilderness would exceed \$360,000 annually. I take the viewpoint that coming from a low per capita State like Arkansas that those are not inconsequential sums. I assume that the Forest Service could speak more to it.

Mr. WHITLEY. This is income foregone in timber sales?

Mr. ANTHONY. Yes. Forest Service could speak more to that.

Another point that I think I would like to make, with your permission, sir, on access. When we looked at the areas that we include in our piece of legislation, we tried our best to take wilderness areas that could classify as wilderness that did not have private holdings within them. It stands to reason that if you have a wilderness area, and if you have got private land holdings in it, and the law does give that private landowner certain protections, such as access to his piece of property, it is just real hard to say that it is wilderness when you have got private landowners right sitting in the middle of a piece of property that you are supposed to be calling a wilderness.

Mr. WHITLEY. Are you talking about roads, Mr. Anthony?

Mr. ANTHONY. Yes, I am talking about roads.

Mr. WHITLEY. Access, a surface road in and out?

Mr. ANTHONY. That is correct.

Mr. WHITLEY. To private lands?

Mr. ANTHONY. That is correct. Although you might not have a direct condemnation of it, due to the fact that you do have some limitations placed on you by the operation of the law, you almost have a de facto condemnation of it as far as what the total utilization of that piece of property could be. So when you try to strike a balance between private landownership and the public in general in trying to develop wilderness, I think it is very important to make a careful consideration as to the number of private landowners that are contained in each of these areas because the more I think you do, you do degrade it.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Mr. Anthony.

Our next witness is one the Chair is very anxious to hear from, my colleague, Hon. John Paul Hammerschmidt, a Member of Congress from Arkansas.

John, I believe you are the fellow that actually has all the land, or most of it, in his district. So I will be very anxious to hear your feeling about this.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today on the various proposals to establish additional wilderness areas in the State of Arkansas.

I particularly want to commend the chairman for your patience in making arrangements for this hearing as well as your willingness to hear witnesses representing all points of view on this emotional issue. As you know, and as you have observed earlier, there are many persons from Arkansas who have taken the time to come here today to let these committees have the benefit of their differing viewpoints. As you also know, my good friend and colleague, Congressman Bethune, and I, as well as other witnesses, have testified earlier today before the other committee of jurisdiction, and now I am very pleased to testify before your very distinguished panel.

Mr. Chairman, I must confess to have very mixed emotions, as I appear before this subcommittee today, to offer comments on the two bills you are considering which propose to establish additional wilderness areas in Arkansas. It has been my pleasure to represent the people who live in the vast majority of the areas which we are discussing today for nearly the last 17 years. In this connection, I would like to point out that of the approximately 136,000 acres proposed for new wilderness in one of these bills, 108,695 acres, or 91 percent, are located in my district. As a matter of fact 94 percent of all national forest land in Arkansas is located in my congressional district, as is 100 percent of all existing wilderness on national forest land. Should H.R. 2917, which proposes an additional 136,000 acres as wilderness, become law, 92 percent of all wilderness in Arkansas would still be in my district.

Insofar as the people who live in these areas are concerned, as the committee might assume, they are very proud people—proud of

their heritage, independence, and the land they live on. They appreciate the beauty of their environment as well as the resources derived therefrom which provide a livelihood for so many of them.

As a lifelong resident of northwest Arkansas, I, also, have the greatest respect and appreciation for its environment and natural beauty. You may be assured that I am, and have been for many years, among those in the forefront fighting to insure that our natural heritage is preserved and protected for those generations yet to come.

In this connection, during my first term in Congress, I initiated the action which culminated in the designation of the Buffalo River as a national river. This legislation resulted in the acquisition of almost 100,000 acres of land by the National Park Service aimed at the preservation of the Buffalo River as a free flowing stream, bordered by the native woodlands. Today, the Buffalo River runs through a majestic setting for 148 miles. It is considered by many experts to be one of this country's last significant natural rivers to be preserved for future generations.

My work in efforts to clean up our Nation's rivers and streams is also a source of pride for me. As many members of this panel are aware, I was a prime cosponsor of the Clean Water Act, which was enacted as Public Law 95-217. I have continued to be involved with subsequent amendments to that act which are aimed at continuing to improve the quality of rivers and streams in this country.

With my congressional record as outlined, I trust you will recognize my concern for and interest in preserving national treasures such as the Ozark and Ouachita Forests, the forests which we are discussing today. How we can best preserve these forests is, of course, a matter over which men of good will can honestly differ. For example, the majority of my constituents have repeatedly taken a position against having more areas designated as wilderness. They feel that the 24,586 acres of national forest land in Arkansas which have already been designated as wilderness is sufficient. I would point out that the present wilderness acreage in the State, ranks Arkansas 19th among the Nation's national forests in this category.

A prime reason for the opposition of many local citizens to additional wilderness designation is their perception that an adverse economic impact will result from such designation. I do not intend to try to prove or disprove such perceptions at this hearing, in that I know this committee has access to all such pertinent information. However, I would be remiss in not pointing out that economic considerations do play a major role in the minds of many of our citizens when they study this issue.

Another reason the majority of my constituents do not favor additional wilderness is that they firmly believe that the Forest Service has been doing an outstanding job for the last 75 years of preserving and protecting our national forests. As one who has walked these hills and fished the streams of many of these areas for over 50 years, I can personally attest to the magnificent job the Forest Service has done to preserve these forests.

Some of our most scenic areas in the forests have not only been preserved since the Forest Service acquired these lands in 1907 and 1908, but they have been enhanced. Because of this, it is very hard

for me to support additional wilderness areas based on a need to protect the forests. Specific examples of the excellence of the Forest Service's stewardship are reflected in the following: In the early thirties, the national forest timberlands had an inventory of about 1,000 board feet per acre. Today their same inventory is around 10,000 board feet per acre. There is a better road system, more timber, more recreation areas, and more game.

However, as the members of this committee well know, in 1964 the Congress passed the Wilderness Act which led to the elaborate process known as the roadless area review and evaluation [RARE].

Under this process the Forest Service went into excruciating detail to study every aspect of the national forest to determine the best use for each area. As a matter of fact, the Forest Service spent in excess of \$6 million dollars compiling their RARE II study. I would point out to you that one of the bills before you today—H.R. 2917—proposes to designate certain areas as wilderness which, under RARE II, were recommended as nonwilderness. I find it very difficult to justify approving an area as wilderness when an objective, detailed study by experts concluded that it should be classified as nonwilderness.

I would also like to point out that many of my constituents participated in the RARE II hearings to express overwhelming opposition to additional wilderness areas. Their opposition was particularly intense to considering areas which contained inholdings. That same opposition exists today.

As a result of the RARE II study under the Carter administration, the Forest Service recommended only a total of 24,000 acres in Arkansas be designated as wilderness. This contrasts starkly with proposals contained in H.R. 2917 which call for nearly 136,000 acres of wilderness. It should also be noted that four areas included in this bill—Flatside, Leatherwood, East Fork and Penhook—were not even recommended for wilderness designation under the RARE II study. While we in the Congress do not always have to agree with study recommendations presented to us, I do believe that we would be ill-advised to totally disregard the results of such an in-depth evaluation.

While a majority of my constituents are opposed to any expansion of wilderness areas in Arkansas, it does appear to me that of the two bills before the committee today, the preferable one is H.R. 2452, which reflects the views of the professionals in the Forest Service.

I understand full well that H.R. 2452, the Anthony bill, will not satisfy my constituents who want no more wilderness, nor will it satisfy those who want more wilderness than designated in this bill.

However, recognizing the realities of the situation and choosing between these bills, I definitely support H.R. 2452 as being the one which comes closest to satisfying the desires of my constituents. The committee should also be advised that the legislative council of the Arkansas State legislature has now gone on record as supporting H.R. 2452 because it best meets the needs of the State of Arkansas. The council also expressed its support for the release language contained in this bill.

I join the council in urging approval of the release language contained in H.R. 2452. The designation of wilderness by Congress eliminates the administrative discretion to manage for other multiple uses previously held by the Federal land managers; therefore, release language is necessary to insure that the lands not designated as wilderness are available to produce other multiple uses without administrative or legal challenges. This insures a predictable flow of outputs and justifies the high development costs often associated with building roads and growing timber or developing gas fields, et cetera.

I know my time is limited this afternoon, and the panel has many other witnesses to hear. Therefore, I would like to present to the panel for insertion in the official hearing record extensive documentation which has been given to me from several sources including the Arkansas Forest Service, Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, United Mining Congress, and several studies which I hope will help you analyze the many complex economic and social issues surrounding a wilderness designation of the magnitude proposed today.

Mr. WHITLEY. Without objection, they will be received.

[The attachments follow:]

Exhibit A

EXAMPLES OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF THE PENDING BILLS ON THESE AREAS ARE ESTIMATED BY THE FOREST SERVICE AS FOLLOWS:

NOTE: OZARK NATIONAL FOREST ONLY

	BETHUNE <u>H.R. 2917</u>	ANTHONY <u>H.R. 2452</u>
ANNUAL LOSS OF TIMBER REVENUES	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000
ANNUAL ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REGION	7,875,000	2,625,000
ANNUAL REVENUE LOSS TO AFFECTED COUNTIES	131,250	43,750
ANNUAL REVENUE LOSS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS	65,625	21,875

*THIS IS APPROXIMATE IN THAT COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRIBUTION RATIOS ARE NOT ALL THE SAME.

Exhibit B

A RECENT STUDY RELEASED BY RICARDO CLEMENTE FROM THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AT STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY, STATES THAT FOR EACH 212 ACRES LOST TO WILDERNESS, ONE FULLTIME JOB IS LOST IN THE ECONOMY. A DESIGNATION OF 130,000 ACRES WOULD TAKE ALMOST 600 JOBS FROM THE ALREADY STRAPPED COUNTIES OF THE THIRD DISTRICT IN ARKANSAS.

Exhibit C - page 1

Compiled from data furnished by: U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines
American Mining Congress
Geological Survey

AREA	H.R. 2452 Acreage / Anthony	H.R. 2917 Acreage / Bethune	HARDROCK - MINERAL POTENTIAL	OIL & GAS / POTENTIAL	NUMBER OIL & GAS/OIL & GAS LEASES	ACREAGE LEASES
Upper Buffalo Addition	1,504	1,500	lead, zinc - low value bulk material	low	1	400
Hurricane Creek	15,057	16,000	lead, zinc - low value bulk material	high	22	13,921
Richland Creek	6,290	11,790	high lead, zinc - potential, low value bulk materials, phosphate	unknown	3	2,340
East Fork	-	19,725	low	high	-	ALL
Penthook	-	12,010	lead and zinc	-	-	ALL

Exhibit C - page 2

AREA	H.R. 2452 Acreage / Anthony	H.R. 2917 Acreage / Bethune	HARDROCK - MINERAL POTENTIAL	OIL & GAS POTENTIAL	NUMBER /OIL & GAS/OIL & GAS LEASES LEASES	ACREAGE
Leatherwood	-	15,300	lead, zinc - glass sand low value bulk material	-	-	0
Black Fork Mountain	11,560	8,100	low - construction stone	unknown	11	8,050
Upper Kiamichi	9,172	300	low - construction stone	unknown	8	3,170
Dry Creek	6,310	6,470	low - sandstone	high	10	4,899
Flatside	-	10,885	low - low value - bulk materials	high	* 95% of area under lease or application pending	
Belle Starr Cave (Poteau Mountain)	-	17,500	low, low value bulk materials - * 70 million short tons of coal	high for gas	20	13,787

Exhibit D - page 1 ECONOMIC EVALUATIONS - U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AREA	ANTHONY H.R. 2452 ACREAGE	BETHUNE H.R. 2917 ACREAGE	Volume million board ft	Value thousands \$	TIMBER Yield thousand board ft	Gross thousand dollars	Oil & Gas Leases Acres	MINERALS General Mineral Value
<u>Existing Wilderness</u>								
Caney Creek - Arkansas (14,344 acres-Quachita)								
Upper Buffalo - Arkansas (10,542 acres-Ozark)								
<u>RARE II Recommended</u>								
<u>Wilderness (acres)</u>								
Black Fork Mt. (8,084) ARK - 7,568 OK - 4,752 12,320	8,100		86.0	5,600	900	600	8,050	O&G, low hardrock
Upper Klamdichi (8005) ARK - 320 OK - 10,090 10,410	300		51.4	4,391	745	497	3,176	O&G, low hardrock
Hurricane Creek (8073) ARK - 15,177	16,000		125.5	1,044	2,700	2,000	13,921	O&G, low hardrock
Upper Buffalo Addition (8003) ARK - 1,504	1,500		10.8	130	200	150	400	O&G, low hardrock
TOTAL			273.7	11,255	4,545	3,247		

AREA	ANTHONY H.R. 2452 ACREAGE	BETHUNE H.R. 2917 ACREAGE	Volume million board ft	Value thousands \$	Yield thousand board ft	Harvest thousand board ft	Gross thousands dollars	Oil & Gas Leases Acres	MINERALS General Mineral Value
<u>RARE II - Further Planning</u>									
Dry Creek (8087)	ARK - 6,310	6,470	39.5	2,794	273	182	13	4,899	O&G, low hardrock
Belle Starr Cave (8083)	ARK - 5,398	17,500	34.6	1,925	210	140	8	3,992	
Belle Starr E. (8088)		Poteau Mt.	28.8	3,443	435	285	34	4,964	O&G, coal hardrock
Belle Starr W. (8089)			21.9	1,663	185	115	9	4,831	
Richland Creek (8077)	ARK - 6,290	11,790	18.5	222				2,340	
Richland Creek Addition (8001)			77.0	853	800	600	7	5,215	O&G, coal
TOTAL			220.3	10,900	1,903	1,322	71		

Exhibit D - page 3

AREA	ANTHONY H.R. 2452 ACREAGE	BETHUNE H.R. 2917 ACREAGE	Volume million board ft	Value thousands \$	TIMBER Yield thousand board ft	Harvest thousand board ft	Gross thousands dollars	Oil & Gas Leases Acres	MINERALS General Mineral Value
<u>H.R. 2917 ADDITIONS</u>									
Flatside		10,855	80.9	5,789	1,260	840	60		O&G, low hardrock
East Fork (8076)		19,725	141.9	3,884	2,688	1,848	50	19,725	O&G, low hardrock
Leatherwood (8002)		15,300	94.0	1,556	2,196	1,708	28		O&G, low hardrock
Penthook (8075)		12,010	78.9	3,384	1,647	1,281	55	12,010	O&G, med. hardrock
TOTALS ALL AREAS	ARK 42,567	119,580	395.7	14,533	7,791	5,677	193		
	OK 14,842								
	57,409	119,580	889.7	36,688	14,239	10,246	364		

Exhibit E
Arkansas's Third District —
Receipts by county under
National Forest Reserve Act

16 USCS § 500 (National Forest Reserve Act) provides that twenty-five percent (25%) of all revenues derived from timber sales and deposited in the Treasury of the United States during any fiscal year from any national forest shall be paid, at the end of such year, by the Secretary of the Treasury and disbursed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forestry Service Division to the state in which such national forest is situated. The revenues are returned to the state in two payments. The first payment, made in October of each year, consists of seventy-five percent (75%) of the estimated total that will be turned back to the state for that fiscal year. The second payment, made near the end of December of each year, consists of the balance of the twenty-five percent (25%) of the net revenues derived for that fiscal year.

The National Forest Reserve Act further provides that said revenues can be expended as the State Legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties, in which such national forest is situated. The State Legislature has enacted Ark. Stat. 13-703

Section 2, Act 423 of 1911) which provides the following formula for the distribution of the revenues.

1. Three-fourths (3/4) of said revenues shall be distributed to the public schools.
 - A) Ark. Stat. 80-726 (Section 1, Act 104 of 1933) distributes said revenues to the school districts of the county in direct proportion to the number of acres of national forest lands lying within the boundaries of each school district. It is the duty of the State Department of Education to distribute that portion of the funds accruing to the schools of the respective counties.
2. One-fourth (1/4) of said revenues shall be distributed to the treasury of the respective county or counties from which such revenues were derived.
 - A) Ark. Stat. 3-705 (Section 4, Act 423 of 1911) provides that the county treasurer shall add said revenues to the fund of their respective counties for the improvement of the public roads. It is the duty of the State Auditor to distribute that portion of the funds accruing to the county road funds.

The following schedule shows the total amount of revenues received, under the National Forest Reserve Act, by the state and returned to the counties for each of the past two (2) fiscal years and the present fiscal year.

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
School Districts (75%)	\$2,692,599.87	\$3,203,878.41	\$2,795,768.22
Roads (25%)	<u>897,533.29</u>	<u>1,067,959.46</u>	<u>931,922.74</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3,590,133.16</u>	<u>\$4,271,837.87</u>	<u>\$3,727,690.96</u>
	=====	=====	=====

Ark. Stat. 80-726 (Section 1, Act 104 of 1933) provides that the amount of revenues apportioned to the counties shall be in proportion to the number of acres of national forest lands lying within the boundaries of each county. The following table shows the total acreage, as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forestry Service Division, in the Ozark, Ouachita and St. Francis National Forests.

		Net Acreage					
		1979-80	1980-81		1981-82		
<u>National Forest</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Both Payts.</u>	<u>75% Payt.</u>	<u>Final Payt.</u>	<u>75% Payt.</u>	<u>Final Payt.</u>	
Ouachita	Garland	107,078	107,085	106,865	106,865	106,845	
	Hot Spring	360	360	320	320	320	
	Howard	1,246	1,246	1,246	1,246	1,246	
	Logan	18,770	18,544	18,544	18,544	18,544	
	Montgomery	304,095	303,995	306,696	306,696	306,941	
	Perry	93,680	93,680	93,335	93,335	93,335	
	Pike	2,335	2,335	2,295	2,295	2,295	
	Polk	195,321	195,740	197,281	197,281	197,364	
	Saline	52,539	52,239	53,057	53,057	53,357	
	Scott	357,420	357,568	354,732	354,732	354,732	
	Sebastian	11,498	12,058	15,048	15,048	15,048	
	Yell	187,502	187,422	186,825	186,825	186,807	
Total Acreage		<u>1,331,844</u>	<u>1,332,272</u>	<u>1,336,244</u>	<u>1,336,244</u>	<u>1,336,834</u>	
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	

		Net Acreage					
National Forest	County	1979-80	1980-81		1981-82		
		Both Payts.	75% Payt.	Final Payt.	75% Payt.	Final Payt.	
Ozark	Baxter	61,108	61,268	61,268	61,268	61,558	
	Benton	8,017	8,197	8,197	8,197	8,197	
	Conway	6,970	6,969	6,969	6,969	6,969	
	Crawford	84,349	84,724	84,724	84,724	84,724	
	Franklin	103,209	103,209	103,209	103,209	103,209	
	Johnson	175,246	175,246	175,436	175,436	176,064	
	Logan	68,071	68,083	68,083	68,083	68,203	
	Madison	47,502	47,821	47,821	47,821	47,861	
	Marion	3,261	3,261	3,261	3,261	3,261	
	Newton	195,598	195,638	195,638	195,638	195,968	
	Pope	182,774	182,774	182,809	182,809	182,969	
	Searcy	30,761	30,761	31,123	31,123	31,123	
	Stone	61,013	61,013	61,453	61,453	61,208	
	Van Buren	31,499	31,499	31,499	31,499	31,449	
	Washington	23,037	23,117	23,117	23,117	23,241	
	Yell	32,274	32,354	32,354	32,354	32,354	
Total Acreage		1,114,689	1,115,934	1,116,961	1,116,961	1,118,358	
St. Francis	Lee	11,457	11,457	11,457	11,457	11,457	
	Phillips	9,489	9,489	9,489	9,489	9,489	
Total Acreage		20,946	20,946	20,946	20,946	20,946	
State Total		2,467,479	2,469,152	2,474,151	2,474,151	2,476,188	

Based on the total revenues received by the state and the formula provided in Ark. Stat. 13-703 (Section 2, Act 423 of 1911), the following schedule shows the amount of revenues distributed to each county, having acreage located within a national forest boundary line, for each of the past two (2) fiscal years and the present fiscal year.

DISBURSEMENT TO COUNTIES
Under The
NATIONAL FOREST RESERVE ACT

National Forest Unit	County	1979-80 Fiscal Year			1980-81 Fiscal Year			1981-82 Fiscal Year		
		Schools (152)	Revs (152)	Total	Schools (152)	Revs (152)	Total	Schools (152)	Revs (152)	Total
Quachita National Forest	Ozark	\$ 18,844.42	\$ 36,614.80	\$ 226,439.22	\$ 19,244.49	\$ 66,091.50	\$ 264,325.99	\$ 163,972.53	\$ 34,640.83	\$ 219,553.40
	Hot Spring	370.98	190.33	761.31	393.63	197.88	791.51	474.93	163.63	638.56
	Island	1,976.25	628.75	2,605.00	2,311.43	770.48	3,081.93	1,911.63	639.21	2,550.84
	Leflore	29,412.09	9,804.04	39,216.13	34,401.84	11,466.95	45,868.79	28,450.37	9,403.46	37,853.83
	Montgomery	462,137.68	160,719.22	642,876.90	568,496.34	189,446.93	758,943.29	470,911.60	156,970.54	627,882.16
	Perry	146,383.14	46,227.71	198,110.85	172,145.99	57,173.03	230,360.12	143,195.39	47,231.79	190,927.18
	Pike	3,703.47	1,234.49	4,937.96	4,237.45	1,419.14	5,656.59	3,521.01	1,173.67	4,694.68
	Poinsett	310,457.55	103,485.83	413,943.40	285,974.57	121,991.32	407,965.89	302,192.60	100,932.53	403,125.13
	Saline	82,194.75	27,618.26	109,813.02	98,425.66	32,808.53	131,234.21	81,160.78	27,286.93	108,447.71
	Sevier	547,126.26	85,042.75	736,171.01	638,060.78	219,353.60	857,414.38	544,232.98	181,411.00	725,643.98
Forest Total	Sevier	19,124.83	6,374.54	25,499.37	27,933.45	9,305.14	37,238.59	23,086.78	7,495.59	30,582.37
	Union	29,764.61	95,088.21	398,352.82	346,377.70	115,525.31	462,103.61	286,603.95	95,531.64	382,135.59
	Van Buren	12,113,074.06	1704,399.35	82,817,437.41	12,278,856.63	1,876,705.53	13,255,162.20	12,050,483.59	1,843,603.86	13,894,087.45
	Washington	\$ 30,362.81	\$ 10,187.40	\$ 40,730.41	\$ 30,439.48	\$ 12,813.15	\$ 51,252.63	\$ 40,293.29	\$ 13,426.44	\$ 53,705.73
	Webster	4,008.97	1,362.99	5,451.96	5,142.79	1,714.26	6,857.05	5,363.55	1,787.83	7,151.40
	Wells	3,476.41	1,158.80	4,635.21	4,372.34	1,497.43	5,869.79	4,560.03	1,520.01	6,080.04
	Yazoo	42,763.55	14,087.85	56,331.40	52,155.74	17,718.37	70,074.11	53,437.52	18,479.18	71,916.70
	Yazoo	51,464.58	17,161.52	68,646.10	64,753.20	21,596.40	86,349.60	62,532.81	22,510.94	85,043.75
	Yazoo	87,189.36	29,139.79	116,529.15	100,048.33	36,499.44	136,547.77	115,814.10	38,401.36	154,215.46
	Yazoo	33,662.39	11,320.80	45,283.19	42,715.19	14,238.40	56,953.59	44,627.32	14,735.78	59,363.10
Forest Total	Yazoo	23,854.94	7,951.64	31,806.58	20,002.83	10,072.95	30,075.78	31,316.92	10,438.98	41,755.90
	Yazoo	1,876.71	542.24	2,418.95	2,002.93	682.00	2,729.93	2,133.78	711.25	2,845.03
	Yazoo	97,591.67	32,531.56	130,123.23	122,743.04	40,914.38	163,657.38	128,222.90	47,426.63	175,649.53
	Yazoo	91,174.62	30,391.54	121,566.16	114,694.13	36,231.39	150,925.52	129,222.25	39,907.42	169,629.67
	Yazoo	15,344.75	5,114.92	20,459.67	19,526.54	6,503.64	26,030.18	20,364.74	6,780.25	27,144.99
	Yazoo	30,454.61	10,145.20	40,599.81	36,555.53	12,911.85	49,467.38	40,054.28	13,540.99	53,595.27
	Yazoo	15,712.90	5,237.63	20,950.53	19,764.44	6,507.47	26,271.91	20,610.76	6,970.76	27,581.52
	Yazoo	11,531.64	3,843.88	15,375.52	14,503.98	4,814.53	19,318.51	15,202.31	5,089.10	20,291.41
	Yazoo	16,129.40	5,379.81	21,509.21	20,298.86	6,766.28	27,065.14	21,170.23	7,064.74	28,234.97
	Yazoo	536,670.31	118,536.77	7,742,227.08	570,779.95	123,592.32	7,934,371.27	573,164.81	124,536.28	7,955,701.09
Forest Total	Yazoo	\$ 12,459.27	\$ 4,166.42	\$ 16,605.69	\$ 13,258.73	\$ 4,419.94	\$ 17,678.66	\$ 7,098.03	\$ 2,366.01	\$ 9,464.04
	Yazoo	10,352.23	3,450.75	13,802.98	10,983.08	3,660.68	14,643.76	9,974.79	1,929.59	11,904.38
	Yazoo	22,651.50	7,617.17	30,468.67	24,241.81	8,188.63	32,430.43	13,916.83	4,335.60	18,252.43
	Yazoo	92,692,599.87	6,697,533.29	93,990,133.16	89,203,876.41	8,089,979.46	97,293,855.87	92,979,760.22	9,911,922.74	102,891,682.96

Based on the total revenues received by the state and the total acreage of each national forest, as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forestry Service Division, the following table shows the per acre distribution of the revenues for each national forest for each of the past two (2) fiscal years and the present fiscal year.

<u>National Forest</u>	<u>Distribution Per Acre</u>		
	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1981-82</u>
Ouachita	\$2.11	\$2.47	\$2.04
Ozark	.66	.83	.87
St. Francis	1.45	1.54	.82
State Total	1.45	1.72	1.50

Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have an erratum in one of those additions. On exhibit A, if I may call it to the reporter's attention, the Bethune bill in my testimony says H.R. 2197. Actually those figures come from H.R. 2571. Very shortly I will submit, or ask the Forest Service, since these are their figures, to submit the correct figures as well for H.R. 2917 so you will have a complete picture. The reason for that mixup was Mr. Bethune introduced an earlier bill and I used those figures from the Forest Service, and then later he amended his bill. And so therefore I have three sets of economic figures to present to the committee.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Hammerschmidt.

Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hansen, I am most appreciative for your interest and for your very kind attention.

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. Hansen?

Mr. HANSEN. It is good to have you here, Mr. Hammerschmidt. You and I have worked together on a lot of things. I also appreciate your insight and understanding and the diligent way in which you serve the people of your own area, and the people of the country. So your remarks are well taken, as far as I am concerned.

I would just ask one question, and that is, can you clarify for the committee the posture taken by the various representatives of the Arkansas delegation on this issue? As I understand it, there is some division and difference of opinion, and I was wondering, in somewhat capsule form, if you might be prepared to give us any background on that.

Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT. Only that we just have honest differences of opinion. And we represent to some degree I guess a different constituency base, as to what their ultimate conclusions are, and we are all just doing our jobs as representatives of the people and we have differences of opinion there.

Mr. WHITLEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HANSEN. Yes.

Mr. WHITLEY. The gentleman, of course, got here a little late. Our situation here is that we have two bills pending, one introduced by the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. Anthony, which has a more restricted wilderness designation. It is supported by Mr. Hammerschmidt as the more desirable of the two, is supported by

the Forest Service and apparently follows fairly closely the recommendations that came from the RARE II study.

The other bill is introduced by our colleague, Congressman Ed Bethune of Arkansas, and it is a considerably broader bill and contains a larger designated wilderness area. And most of the land, some 92 percent of the land involved is in the district of Mr. Hammerschmidt.

Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT. Mr. Chairman, if I might call to your attention, and the committee's attention, the fact that Mr. Alexander has also cosponsored the Anthony bill.

Mr. HANSEN. I appreciate the chairman reviewing this. It was my understanding that the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. Hammerschmidt, had the greatest impact in his district but we don't have a political division here. We have some other kind of a division, because we have people of both parties divided up on each side. That is why I mentioned the issue rather than a bill. I felt this matter probably ought to be put on the table so we all understand the situation. I appreciate the chairman making that review.

Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT. Fine.

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Mr. Hammerschmidt.

Our next witness will be Mr. Dale Robertson, Associate Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture here in Washington.

Mr. Robertson, we have your statement. We would appreciate hearing from you at this time.

STATEMENT OF F. DALE ROBERTSON, ASSOCIATE CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ACCOMPANIED BY ED BLOEDEL

Mr. ROBERTSON. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee to discuss H.R. 2917 and H.R. 2452, which would designate certain lands within the Ozark and St. Francis, and the Ouachita National Forests as wilderness areas.

The Department of Agriculture recommends enactment of H.R. 2452 with certain amendments. The bill would establish six new wilderness areas totaling 55,905 acres and add 1,504 acres to the existing Upper Buffalo Wilderness. Four of the areas—Black Fork Mountain, Hurricane Creek, Upper Buffalo addition, and Upper Kiamichi River—were recommended for wilderness designation in the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement. We support designation of these areas with acreage corrections to include the grass area within the proposed boundaries.

The Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975 established the Dry Creek, Belle Starr Cave and Richland Creek as wilderness study areas. The Forest Service has completed the basic study of these three areas and is currently in the final stages of completing the environmental impact statement. At this time we recommend that action on these three areas be deferred until the study process can be completed and recommendations have been transmitted to the Congress by the President. We will do our best to expedite this process.

In addition to wilderness designations proposed by H.R. 2452, H.R. 2917 would designate four additional wilderness areas and

would significantly enlarge the Richland Creek and the Belle Starr Cave (Poteau Mountain) areas. The Department of Agriculture does not support wilderness designation for these four additional and two expanded areas and, therefore, recommends that H.R. 2917 not be enacted.

Three of the four additional areas proposed by H.R. 2917 for wilderness, Penhook, Leatherwood, and East Fork, were recommended as nonwilderness in the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement. Penhook was not recommended for wilderness because of important timber values, 16 miles of roads, and numerous pine plantations.

Leatherwood was not recommended because there are approximately 499 acres of private land in 11 widely scattered tracts, 91 miles of roads, important timber values with numerous pine plantations, and manmade wildlife openings. East Fork was not recommended because it has high timber values, 78 miles of roads, two cemeteries, and significant evidence of past logging and management activities. All three areas have planned future timber sales.

We recommend that Penhook, Leatherwood, and East Fork areas not be designated as wilderness.

The proposed Flatside Wilderness contained in H.R. 2917 was not included in the RARE II inventory because the area did not meet criteria for the roadless area review. Since 1965, 6.5 million board-feet of timber has been harvested from the area. There are 40 miles of primitive roads and 1.2 miles of all-weather road in the Flatside area. Eighteen percent of the acreage included in Flatside is in young, recently regenerated timber stands and the remainder of the area is in second growth. The Forest Service and the State of Arkansas have also made investments in improvement work within the flatside area. Because of the existing developments, which we believe are incompatible with wilderness and other resource values, we recommend this area not be designated wilderness.

H.R. 2917 designates Richland Creek as wilderness containing the congressionally designated Richland Creek Wilderness Study Area and the Richland Creek RARE II further planning area, for a total of 11,709 acres. As previously indicated, the Department of Agriculture recommends deferring wilderness designation of the smaller 6,290 acres area until completion of the studies and we recommend against designation of the remainder of this area because of existing roads, cutover forest lands, a cemetery, and privately owned mineral rights within the area.

H.R. 2917 also designates the Poteau Mountain Wilderness. This area is a combination of three RARE II areas; Belle Starr Cave [WSA] wilderness study area, Belle Starr East, and Belle Starr West further planning areas. The Forest Service has completed studies of the East and West Belle Starr areas together with the congressionally designated Belle Starr Cave Wilderness Study Area and is in the final stages of completing the environmental impact statement. As previously stated, we recommend that action on this area be deferred until the study process has been completed and the President submits his recommendations to the Congress.

H.R. 2917 would designate only those acres in Black Fork Mountain and Upper Kiamichi that are in Arkansas. The portions of the adjoining areas in the State of Oklahoma should be designated as

wilderness at the same time the Arkansas portions are designated. Based on the RARE II recommendations, the Department supports the designation of a Black Fork Mountain Wilderness of 12,320 acres and an Upper Kiamichi Wilderness of 10,410 acres including lands in both Oklahoma and Arkansas.

This concludes my prepared statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Robertson appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Robertson.

Just briefly, if I understand your testimony, it is the position of the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture to substantially support H.R. 2452 with minor exceptions, and you are opposed to H.R. 2917, primarily because it includes the designation of several areas that your RARE II study did not indicate were suitable for wilderness designation; is that correct, sir?

Mr. ROBERTSON. That is correct, plus we support deferring the three wilderness study areas until the study is completed.

Mr. WHITLEY. I asked the previous witnesses about the release language in the two bills, and the response was that the bill that you favor, H.R. 2452, contains what has come to be called hard release language and H.R. 2917, soft release language. I take it you are sort of going on record pretty solidly in favor of hard release language?

Mr. ROBERTSON. Yes. We favor the release language in the Anthony bill, which is permanent release.

Mr. WHITLEY. Is that a general position? Would that be the general position of the Forest Service? Should we just assume that for future legislation as far as wilderness legislation is concerned?

Mr. ROBERTSON. Yes.

Mr. WHITLEY. Then we won't have to go through this any further.

You mentioned private lands, roads and other problems that you had with H.R. 2917. Tell me briefly what would be the economic impact of the two bills on the community, on the State, on the local economy in the area where the wilderness designation would take place.

Mr. ROBERTSON. The areas included in H.R. 2452 have already been taken out of our allowable cut calculations on the Ozark St. Francis and the Ouachita National Forests, so by designating those areas it would not have any additional impact.

Mr. WHITLEY. You mean as a result of RARE II?

Mr. ROBERTSON. Yes.

Mr. WHITLEY. They are already out?

Mr. ROBERTSON. They are already out as a result of RARE II, and the congressionally designated wilderness study areas. Now, if we go beyond that and include the areas that are included in H.R. 2917, this would put an additional 74,000 acres of timberland, that is now in our allowable cut calculations, into wilderness, and the annual program harvest from this is about 6 million board feet a year, with an income of somewhere between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year. If you wanted to convert the 6 million board feet to jobs, I believe the conversion factor is about seven to eight jobs per million board feet, direct jobs in timber industry, and that would come

out to about 40-50 jobs and then you would have the secondary effects.

Mr. WHITLEY. What about the payments to counties, local school boards, that sort of thing, from the proceeds of the sales?

Mr. ROBERTSON. Twenty-five percent of the receipts from the National Forest are shared with the counties which have National Forest System lands in them, and that is shared on the proportion of acres of a national forest in a county. In other words, if a county has 10 percent of the Ozark National Forest, then it would get 10 percent of the 25-percent receipts from the Ozark National Forest. Designating areas for wilderness doesn't affect the percentage going to a particular county, but it would affect, as I just explained, the total receipts coming into that forest, so you would be splitting a smaller pot of receipts.

Mr. WHITLEY. Of course the larger the wilderness designation and the smaller the amount of timber being cut, the smaller pie you have to slice up, and the smaller the amount the counties and local school boards, either, would receive.

Mr. ROBERTSON. You are correct.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you.

Mr. Hansen, do you have any questions?

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just a corroboration. Boiling your statement down to one bottom line, you support which legislation?

Mr. ROBERTSON. H.R. 2452.

Mr. HANSEN. And is this legislation relatively close to that which you advocate with the various provisions.

Mr. ROBERTSON. It includes what the Forest Service recommends plus those three wilderness study areas that we have not decided upon yet.

Mr. HANSEN. And at this point are you prepared to support or reject those provisions?

Mr. ROBERTSON. You mean the three wilderness studies?

Mr. HANSEN. That is correct.

Mr. ROBERTSON. At this point we must recommend deferral until completion of the studies.

Mr. HANSEN. When would you be prepared to make a decision on those?

Mr. ROBERTSON. The studies are completed. Forest supervisors have submitted those to the regional forester, and the regional forester should have his recommendations to us within a month or two. It will probably take another 2 or 3 months to get it through the interagency review process here in Washington, so we are probably looking at somewhere between 5 and 6 months.

Mr. HANSEN. I see. So this bill will die of doddering old age before you really get your comments in on those provisions; is that correct?

Mr. ROBERTSON. Well, we hope not.

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. Morrison?

Mr. MORRISON. No questions.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Robertson.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. The next scheduled witness on our tentative list is Mr. B. J. Pavlovich.

Would you come forward, please, Mr. Pavlovich?

**STATEMENT OF B. J. PAVLOVICH, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
ARKANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**

Mr. PAVLOVICH. Chairman Whitley and Mr. Hansen, I am Merf Pavlovich. I am the executive vice president of the Arkansas Forestry Association. I am a forester by education, and have been involved in timber supply and wood products-related association work since 1957.

The Arkansas Forestry Association, with offices in Little Rock, is a nonprofit association of approximately 1,500 forest landowners, wood-product companies, practicing foresters, pulp and paper companies, farmers, savings and loan groups, banks, and others interested in maintaining the forest potential of Arkansas.

Our members appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Arkansas wilderness bills being considered by this committee.

Of the two bills under discussion today, the Arkansas Forestry Association supports H.R. 2452 as a bill that most closely parallels a position taken prior to any legislation for additional Arkansas wilderness was ever introduced to this Congress.

The Arkansas Forestry Association is not opposed to the concept of wilderness, but feels it must resist efforts to indiscriminately designate wilderness regardless of an area's wilderness attributes or the need for wilderness. Our concern is not "should we have wilderness," but "how much" should be set aside.

Our members, through their various working committees, 60 man board of directors, and 15 man executive committee-endorsed the Forest Service recommendations for wilderness designation in Arkansas.

We favor legislation that contains "sufficiency" language for the RARE II, Environmental Impact Statement and "release" language for areas recommended for nonwilderness. We do not support the further study of additional areas. The wilderness issue has been studied since 1964 and it is time that positive steps to settle the question be taken.

The areas identified in H.R. 2542 are the same as those recommended by the Forest Service. These recommendations were not developed overnight or arrived at casually. They are the result of two or three intensive studies: RARE I, RARE II and congressionally mandated studies. The studies were costly in both dollars and manpower. They involved widespread public hearings. Additional costly restudy is not needed at this time.

Nationally there are approximately 26 million acres of national forest land set aside as primitive or legislative designated wilderness. This represents 14 percent of the total 187 million acres that the Forest Service manages. It does not include the millions of acres that are de facto wilderness because they fall under further study classification or are under "administrative appeal," nor does it include other Federal or other agency wilderness lands.

The National Wilderness Preservation System included in 1981 approximately 79.8 million acres. This is equal to about 11 percent

of all of the forest and rangeland of federally owned lands. It is equal in size to the New England States plus New York and New Jersey, which is a considerable area.

The Anthony bill will increase the Ozark and Ouachita National Forest Wilderness System more than 3½ times.

Even without these additional new areas, there are 13 existing wilderness areas with over 120,000 acres within easy driving distance of north-central Arkansas. These areas are located in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

We feel that the Anthony bill, which parallels the USFS recommendations, is most reasonable and valid. The proposed areas were singled out after detailed studies of numerous sites were identified as possible wilderness. These sites were evaluated on the basis of projected wilderness need, wilderness attributes, the economic and social impacts, and their manageability.

In contrast, some of the prospective areas listed in H.R. 2917 contain features and developments wholly beyond the concept and definition of wilderness.

For instance, East Fork (Ozark National Forest) includes a road which bisects the area from east to west. A group supporting this proposal recommends that the road not be closed to motorized vehicles because of its traditional use by local residents and hunters. An accepted definition of wilderness includes the phrase "untrammelled by man." A roadway through the middle of a wilderness would hardly meet that phrase. I realize that the acres and boundaries of the proposed areas are changing almost daily. My latest information is that the road would be included in the East Fork proposed wilderness area. The East Fork area also has a wilderness attribute ranking of 16 on a scale of from 4 to 28.

Flatside, located just west of Little Rock, has a rating of about 14. Flatside did not surface as a potential wilderness area during the exhaustive and highly publicized RARE II public input process. This area, I am told has 8 miles of boundary contiguous to private land and has 41.4 miles of primitive and all-weather roads. It also has a history of recent timber harvesting.

H.R. 2917 would also create a 300-acre wilderness in the Upper Kiamichi area. This would not meet any parameters for a wilderness area. I assume that the intent of this proposed wilderness area would require spillover acres in Oklahoma. The same would hold true for the Black Fork Mountain proposal, part of which lies in Oklahoma, also. If this is the intent, it probably should be addressed in the bill.

The general welfare and economic well-being of Arkansas is in a large part tied directly to the State's timber resource. A recent economic study indicates that 1 out of every 5 manufacturing employees in Arkansas is engaged in the production of wood products. Wilderness designation can mean that significant sources of timber supply will be cut off.

On a localized level, the impact is far more critical as adjacent communities rely heavily on these areas for the production of jobs and local resources. For instance, one company with an annual production of 15 million feet of lumber depends on the Forest Service for 1 to 2-mm feet of raw material. Another mill uses 50 to 60 percent of Federal timber. Still another uses 52 percent.

In summary, the Arkansas Forestry Association hopes that this committee will consider the Arkansas wilderness bills on the basis of the need for wilderness, the character of the areas proposed, and the social and economic impacts involved. We also trust that sufficient weight in your decision be given to the Forest Service recommendations that are the result of intensive studies and past public input. We do not favor repeated costly studies.

We very much appreciate the time afforded by this committee to provide our views. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much for that testimony, Mr. Pavlovich.

Does any member of the subcommittee have questions?

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I join you in welcoming this gentleman here, and appreciate having his testimony. We will certainly study it as part of that which has been submitted.

Mr. WHITLEY. Let the Chair reiterate again that we do still have a lengthy witness list. As the witnesses come forward, if you have a lengthy written statement, we would again assure you that the entire statement will be received for the record; and if you can summarize it, it will be helpful to the committee.

Our next witness is Mr. William Shepherd, who is a member of the State of Arkansas National Heritage Commission.

We are glad to have you, Mr. Shepherd. Please proceed.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM M. SHEPHERD, MEMBER, ARKANSAS NATURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

Mr. SHEPHERD. Thank you, sir.

If I may correct the record, I am a member of the staff of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, and I am here to testify in support of H.R. 2917, Congressman Bethune's bill.

The Natural Heritage Commission is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Natural and Cultural Heritage and was established 10 years ago by the general assembly to preserve important natural areas in the State of Arkansas. As such, it has counterpart agencies in most other States.

When establishing this agency, the general assembly recognized that major natural area resources of the State are located on land held by the Federal Government. For this reason, the general assembly made it a specific duty of the Natural Heritage Commission "to advise the Department of Agriculture * * * concerning areas * * * eligible for treatment under Federal criteria * * * wilderness. * * *" Our staff and our commission, accordingly, have given considerable study in the last 2 years to proposals for designating additional wilderness areas on lands in Arkansas that are held by Federal agencies.

Over the past 11 years, field biologists have spent many hundreds of hours inventorying Arkansas' resources of natural diversity on behalf of the Natural Heritage Commission. Much of this effort has been expended in examining technical literature, maps, and collections of specimens, much of it actually out on the landscape. And significant percentages of the agency's inventory effort have been directed to the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains.

Not being fortunate enough to have been preceded by a State biological survey, as in some other States, we have had to perform many functions of a State biological survey ourselves. In this process—I submit—we have learned a great deal about Arkansas' natural diversity, how the elements of that diversity are distributed in the State, and what it will take to assure that this heritage of diversity is preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

In recent months we have visited these 11 proposed wilderness areas. We have evaluated them in the light of our experience in other areas of the Ozarks and the Ouachitas and specifically in comparison with other parts of the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests. Our conclusion is that the 11 areas specified in Congressman Bethune's bill, if preserved, would make a major contribution toward achieving the goals to which our agency is dedicated.

Basic to the whole enterprise of biological conservation is an understanding that the space needs of different conservation targets vary enormously. A population of a rare kind of salamander may be able to survive indefinitely in a few acres of preserved habitat. Some of our rarest plants might survive in even smaller preserves. But a meaningful sample of forest of a certain type may require 100 acres, 200 acres, or more. Some of the kinds of animals that need habitat protection are large and/or highly mobile, and 200 acres of habitat will only begin to meet their needs. Then, preserves that maintain the relationships between natural communities of various kinds, including the unaltered streams that support so much life, obviously get us to the point where we have to think in terms of a few thousand acres.

Now, a State natural area agency like ours can do an effective job with those elements of nature that have relatively modest needs for space. To date, the Natural Heritage Commission has set aside 25 areas of land distributed around the State. We know that these tracts are protecting some important elements of our heritage. But the largest of them encompasses only 1,108 acres; consequently, we know that none of our agency's preserves offers much assistance to the endangered Florida panther, for example.

Furthermore, we know that it is impossible to help that species in that way. Through the National Wilderness Preservation System, though, Forest Service lands can help preserve the State's natural diversity in large forested tracts that are complementary to our agency's preserves. Here are some examples. The Dry Creek area includes the entire watershed of a mountain stream. The Hurricane Creek area and the Leatherwood area each contain almost complete watersheds—more than 90 percent.

The crest of Blackfork Mountain supports a stunted woodland of ancient white oaks that probably is unique in Arkansas, while the north-facing slope of the same mountain has an unusually fine forest of sugar maple, oaks, and hickories. Extensive cedar glades are features of special interest in the Leatherwood area, and the East Fork area has some swamps dominated by overcup oak, surprisingly located in upland locations.

We have records of the Florida panther from the Belle Starr area and from the Hurricane Creek area; and several of the rare plant species on our agency's inventory list grow in areas now pro-

posed for wilderness designation. Doubtless there are other features of equal importance in these areas that have not yet come to our attention. But it is clear that this selection of national forest lands, taken with the two national forest wilderness areas already set aside in Arkansas, can serve an extremely important purpose if you will add them to the Wilderness System in the present session of Congress. In recognition of this potential the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission adopted a resolution last year which I submit with my remarks. It requests that you "take all appropriate action as soon as possible to enact the appropriate * * * legislation." I ask you to give their request your serious consideration. Thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Shepherd. Without objection, the resolution of the State of Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission will be accepted for the record.

[The resolution of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission follows:]

STATE OF ARKANSAS
THE NATURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO SECURE LEGISLATION DESIGNATING AS WILDERNESS CERTAIN SCENIC AREAS LOCATED WITHIN THE OZARK NATIONAL FOREST AND THE OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Arkansas to preserve, manage and enhance the lands, waters, and air of the State with full recognition that this generation is a trustee of the environment for succeeding generations to preserve, to the fullest extent possible areas of historical, geological, archaeological, paleontological, ecological, biological, and recreational importance; to promote as wide a range of choice as possible among beneficial uses of the environment and to strike a proper balance among population growth, economic development, environmental preservation, and ecological diversity; all to the end that the environment and resources of the State of Arkansas shall be used and preserved for the welfare of man;

WHEREAS, the Natural Heritage Commission of the State of Arkansas is charged with certain rights, powers and duties pursuant to the laws of the State of Arkansas in order to effectuate this policy, including but not limited to advising the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Interior and other agencies of the federal government concerning areas eligible for treatment under federal criteria as wilderness areas; and

WHEREAS, for the past few years as a consequence of the Eastern Wilderness Act and the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II), certain areas have been studied by the United States Forest Service together with the assistance of various state agencies, private organizations and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the studies of the lands comprising the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests, certain areas within these two national forests which contain scenic and unique natural features, in the opinion of this Commission are suitable for wilderness designation as hereinafter set forth; and

WHEREAS the enactment of federal legislation is necessary before these areas can be designated and kept in a natural state for that use by present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, these scenic areas are an important part of our natural and cultural heritage therefore being of concern to the citizens of the State of Arkansas who enjoy the beauty as well as the many recreational and educational aspects of these areas; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of our citizens, present and future, that these areas be preserved and protected as wilderness areas pursuant to law so that these areas will remain in a natural and undisturbed state for recreational and educational purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Natural Heritage Commission:

1. That it is in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Arkansas that the following areas situated within the boundaries of both the Ozark National Forest and the Ouachita National Forest which contain scenic and unique natural features should be protected and administered as wilderness areas pursuant to law for the benefit of present and future generations for

their education and enjoyment and that federal legislation should be enacted for that purpose, as soon as possible:

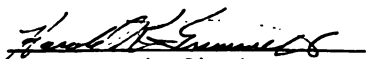
- (1) Upper Buffalo Addition, situated in the County of Newton, consisting of 1,500 acres.
- (2) Hurricane Creek, situated in the Counties of Newton and Johnson, consisting of 16,500 acres.
- (3) Richland Creek, situated in the Counties of Newton and Searcy, consisting of 11,400 acres.
- (4) East Fork, situated in the Counties of Pope and Van Buren, consisting of 21,300 acres.
- (5) Penhook, situated in the County of Pope, consisting of 9,800 acres.
- (6) Leatherwood, situated in the Counties of Baxter and Marion, consisting of 15,100 acres.
- (7) Blackfork Mountain, situated in the County of Polk and the State of Oklahoma, consisting of 8,100 acres in Scott County, and 5,500 acres in the State of Oklahoma.
- (8) Belle Starr Cave, situated in the Counties of Scott and Sebastian, consisting of 17,600 acres.
- (9) Upper Kiamichi, situated in the County of Polk and the State of Oklahoma, consisting of 300 acres in Polk County, and 10,800 in the State of Oklahoma.
- (10) Dry Creek, situated in the Counties of Logan and Scott, consisting of 6,470 acres.
- (11) Flatside Pinnacle, situated in the Counties of Perry and Saline, consisting of 10,000 acres.

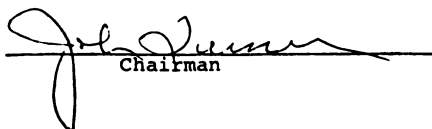
2. That the United States Senators and Representatives representing the citizens of the State of Arkansas are hereby urged to take all appropriate action to enact the necessary federal legislation, as soon as possible, so that those areas containing scenic and natural areas within the Ozark National Forest and the Ouachita National Forest and identified herein will be designated as wilderness and protected and administered, accordingly pursuant to law for the benefit of our citizens, present and future;

3. That the Director of the Natural Heritage Commission for the State of Arkansas is authorized and requested to furnish : a copy of this Resolution to each of the United States Senators and Representatives of the State of Arkansas requesting each of them on behalf of the Natural Heritage Commission and the citizens of the State of Arkansas to take all appropriate action as soon as possible to enact the appropriate federal legislation designating the areas enumerated herein as wilderness to be administered and protected pursuant to law.

ADOPTED this 29th day of April, 1982.

ATTEST:


Executive Director


Chairman

Mr. WHITLEY. Do members of the subcommittee have questions for Mr. Shepherd?

Mr. Hansen.

Mr. HANSEN. I appreciate the witness appearing, and will certainly review what he has had to say.

I have no further questions or comments, Mr. Chairman. thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. Morrison.

Mr. MORRISON. No thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Shephard.

Our next scheduled witness is Mr. Waymond Teague of the Bibler Lumber Co. of Arkansas.

Mr. Teague, we welcome you here today. As we have said to previous witnesses, we will accept your written statement in its entirety for the record, and we would appreciate your comments.

STATEMENT OF WAYMOND TEAGUE, WOODLAND MANAGERS, BIBLER LUMBER CO.

Mr. TEAGUE. I am sure that many of the points made in my paper will be made by folks who will follow me. And certainly the folks who have come before me have done a good job.

I am Waymond Teague, woodlands manager, for Bibler Co., and I speak in that capacity. I am a forester with 20 years' experience, and we have a sawmill located in Russellville, Ark., centrally located in regard to the wilderness areas we talk about today. We buy approximately 55 percent of our usage from the Forest Service.

I am going to skip the figures and the bills, and I will try to go to some kind of economic analysis of what we think about the wilderness proposal. I would direct your attention to page 2. The question came to mind, How much timber is on the areas and what is it worth today? I took the proposals, the Forest Service's, Mr. Anthony's bill and Mr. Bethune's bill.

The Forest Service's original recommendations called for 135 million board feet of timber that has a current fair market price of \$16.5 million. Mr. Anthony's proposed area would have 211 million board feet of timber and have a worth of \$26.5 million. Mr. Bethune's proposed area would have 360 million board feet and \$46.5 million in value today.

I would like to point out that these figures are from the Forest Service, and the fair market price that I used on these figures are compilations from sales for the last 3 years. I think we all know we have been in quite a depressed market for lumber in the last 3 years, and that has certainly shown up in the stumpage prices. I would estimate that these prices are up to 50 percent below fair market value today.

You might be interested to know that the amount of timber on Mr. Bethune's area, 360 million board-feet, would build 36,000 single-family homes. There is an additional value out there to be had. If you would like, you could put \$200 an acre in the dirt and \$50 in the improvements—being surveys, boundaries, road construction, pond, wildlife, openings, drainage improvements, et cetera. If that were the case, the Forest Service proposed area would have a value of \$27 million. Mr. Anthony's would have a

value of \$41.2 million. And Mr. Bethune's would have a value of almost \$80 million.

Much has been said, or will be said, about revenue that can or is being produced or could be produced from the area. The potential fair market value of the wood that could be produced from the Forest Service area on an annual basis would be \$1.6 million, and again this is the price we have been experiencing for the last 3 years which is quite depressed. The county share of that would be \$411,000. If that wood were available to us, that would provide jobs in our mill. The type of mill that we have got, it would provide for 87 jobs for a year. The like figures for Mr. Anthony's bill, his area would produce \$2.3 million worth of timber annually, of which \$570,000 would go to the county. This is 140 jobs. If Mr. Bethune's bill was in, his area, it produces \$5.1 million. The county gets \$1.2 million a year; and that would produce 276 jobs. That would produce almost enough timber to run our mill on.

Several things happen when public timber is removed from the marketplace. It increases the amount of industrially owned timber as a percentage of the total timber available for the market. Small businesses are heavily dependent on public timber. It could cause industry to acquire more privately held timberland to offset their losses. It would increase our reliance on nonindustrial privately owned timber; in other words, the small landowner. This, in turn, could cause mandatory controls to be placed on the use of this land, or it could increase the size of the forest incentive program. In either case, it would be an invitation for Government to participate in the management of small landowners.

It would intensify the resource use on the nonwilderness areas. It is interesting to note that 52 percent of all commercial forest woods is on federally owned land. Even a great percentage of the saw timber-sized trees and the high quality trees is located on Federal lands. Of course wilderness would capture a greatly disproportionate amount of this highly desirable timber.

Much has been said about, and will be said about the loss to the counties on revenue return. Turnback to the local government is 25 percent of gross receipts, or 75 cents an acre, whichever is greater. If the 25 percent is less than 75 cents an acre, the payment in lieu of taxes makes up the difference. Payment-in-lieu-of-tax money comes from the general fund of the taxpayer. If the 25-percent share equals or exceeds 75 cents an acre, an additional 10 cents is paid from the PILT funds. In other words, if the 25-percent share is greater than 75 percent, PILT fund pays 10 cents an acre. If it is only 40 cents an acre, the PILT fund pays 35 cents an acre. PILT money goes to the general county funds, and is not earmarked for any particular use. It can be used as the county sees fit.

The 25-percent turnback money is earmarked for schools and roads in the county.

The amount of revenue loss is in direct proportion to the amount of timber cut off or will be cut off of those areas that are in wilderness.

The danger lies in when the revenue is around the 75 cents per acre level.

In other words, if you had a million-acre forest, and you had timber sales in the neighborhood of \$3 million, then the 25 percent turnback share would be \$750,000.

In other words, all money came from timber cuts.

PILT in this case would contribute an additional \$100,000. So the county would have received \$850,000. If those timber sales were to drop 3 percent, to \$2,800,000, then your revenue-sharing portion of the turnback is \$725,000, and PILT funds makes \$25,000, and there is no additional money made.

In other words, if you have a forest that generates \$3 million worth of timber sales, the county gets \$850,000. If it generates \$2,900,000, it only gets \$750,000. Quite a disproportionate drop there.

The charge has been made that none of the areas can produce a positive cash flow. And this is simply not the case.

All the areas produce a positive cash flow. It might be good, except in certain cases. It might be good to look at the last handout I gave you.

The way the computation is done is an area is taken. Gross receipts is established for the sale of that timber, and, of course, recreational fees and other things. Then you take out the preparation and administration costs. Then you take out payment to counties.

In this case, payment to counties becomes a cost against the Forest Service.

Then you take out postsale cost. This is the regeneration, reclamation, replanting, putting the tract back into production. And you have a net return to the Forest Service.

Out of the seven areas in the Ouachita, net revenue produced is a minus \$3,000 on Belle Starr to \$23,100 produced on Flatside.

Let's take a moment to look at the Belle Starr study area which has a negative cash flow of \$3,000.

A payment was made against the Forest Service of \$4,357, that was made to the county. That was shown as a cost against the sale.

In other words, income over and above cost to the sale was \$43,000 less the \$3,000. So it produced a net cash flow. It simply went to the county instead of the Forest Service.

The Caney Creek area in the Ouachita is near the Arkansas/Oklahoma border, and recently suffered a southern pine beetle epidemic. It resulted in the loss of 1.2 million board feet of standing timber. This would build 120 houses. And it has a fair market value of \$29,000.

In an effort to stop the epidemic, the Secretary of Agriculture granted special permission to enter the area to use chain saws to fell the timber and let it lie.

Additionally, there is an estimated 2.8 million board feet in the area yet to be felled and to let lie. The value of this timber is \$672,000, and that will build 280 houses. And the epidemic—there is no assurance that the epidemic has stopped now. It may very well spread to privately owned lands.

There is \$962,000 worth of timber lying on the ground and it cost the Forest Service \$18,000 to put it there.

I would like to say one other thing in closing.

The present use level of the wilderness areas is at 15 to 20 percent level. And with the projected population increase average as

high as 1 to 2 percent, we currently have in wilderness sufficient amount to go through the year 2045.

It might be interesting to note that an acre of land at Caney Creek wilderness area has a value of approximately \$4,000. The average use of that acre is 7 hours a year. It should be noted that the RARE II process started in early 1977. It is absolutely essential this issue be settled. Until it is settled, the country will suffer a de facto wilderness status on all the acres included in the process.

It is our position there should be some wilderness. The question is how much. Current usage of these areas in Arkansas certainly don't indicate that the amount Mr. Bethune recommended is needed, hardly. We can acquiesce to the fact that future needs should be met today. Certainly a compromise is in order. And, therefore, we would endorse Mr. Anthony's bill, H.R. 2542.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Teague appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much for that testimony, Mr. Teague. Any questions?

Mr. MORRISON. No questions.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Mr. Teague.

Mr. Louis Gregoire, Society for the Preservation of Ozark Culture.

Mr. Gregoire.

STATEMENT OF LOUIS GREGOIRE, PRESIDENT, SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OZARK CULTURE

Mr. GREGOIRE. Mr. Chairman, the committee, I am Louis Gregoire.

It is a pleasure to appear before the committee on behalf of the society. Just a word on the society.

We are a group of landowners, most of us are holders within the Ozark St. Francis National Forest.

You have, I believe, a copy of our testimony before you.

Mr. WHITLEY. Yes, in its entirety.

Mr. GREGOIRE. I hope you will consider including it.

Mr. WHITLEY. It will be included in the record in its entirety, without objection.

Mr. GREGOIRE. I won't take much time. I would like to make a few notes to follow up on Mr. Teague's presentation.

But first, I would like to call attention to the first page. To date, now, in both hearings, the only thing I have heard referred to as far as wilderness is at Caney Creek and Upper Buffalo wilderness area, which, of course, are the two Arkansas wildernesses within the Forest Service. But the Ozark-Ouachita land area has a total of 134,225 acres.

Now, this, of course, is using the entire area.

In that wilderness, the visitor usage is 0.3 visitor days per acre per year.

Now, the Forest Service states that this wilderness could be used up to the rate of two visitor days per acre year without harm to the ecology. So it can be seen by that that only about 15 percent of the potential of our existing wilderness is being used.

It is our understanding, as the Forest Service does consider wilderness, that need is one of the main criteria of adding more wilderness. And from this, it is our feeling that the need does not exist.

Now, then, as far as the acreage goes, just for one example of what seems to be to us the imbalance. In Newton County, where I live, we have 10,542 acres of wilderness in the forest. At the same time, the Forest Service has supplied 7 acres of developed recreation areas.

Now, it is well-established that there is a very small percent of Americans will ever backpack into a wilderness. They get the 10,000 acres, and the vast majority of people that are left, they get the 7 acres. We feel that we have an imbalance going. We would, of course, like to see both bills rejected, as we feel there is a sufficient wilderness in the Ozark-Ouachita highlands at date.

One more thing I would call your attention to, then.

You are going to hear a lot more about local impact. It does exist. I don't mean to take the committee's time. In the attachments to my testimony, you will find a letter from a craftsman, two letters from school superintendents, a letter from our sheriff, and a letter from our county judge. These, I believe, will be self-explanatory.

Thank you, sir.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gregoire appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. Morrison.

Mr. MORRISON. Mr. Chairman, I understand, Mr. Gregoire, from speaking with your Congressman, Mr. Hammerschmidt, that your society is highly respected to your part of the world. And I just want you to know we respect it and you for your presentation here today.

Mr. GREGOIRE. Thank you, sir.

Mr. WHITLEY. Are Mr. McKinney and Mr. Bobby Joe Hibbard here?

I would ask you to come forward together, if you will. From looking at your titles, I would assume your interests are probably very similar. Perhaps you could appear together in the interest of time.

We will, of course, as we told the previous witnesses, accept in its entirety for the record any written statements you might like to make. We hope your original presentation can be brief in the interest of time.

STATEMENT OF BOBBY JOE HIBBARD, PERRYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

Mr. HIBBARD. I am Bobby Joe Hibbard, with the Perryville School District. I do represent my board of education. We met Monday night late. That is why I do not have a prepared text for you. I also met Monday with the local leader of the Republican Party and Democrat Party of our county. And, therefore, I am representing Perry County also.

I wish to address two issues on these bills.

The first issue which I would like to address is Flatside. We feel like locally, and I say we, I live there, I own land within 3 miles of the Flatside—we feel the impact on the county has been totally ignored, as well as our feelings.

If people will look at Flatside that use it and take time to look at both sides of this issue, they will have to agree there is no way by definition this can be a wilderness area. There is no way. There are developed roads. In fact, there are roads there better than some of my bus routes. There are low water bridges in this area. There are developed waterholes, feed plots. They have cut timber in the last 20 years, primarily the last 15 years, of nearly 18 percent of the Flatside area.

It is not untouched, it is not in its natural form. The board member that is here can tell you—he has lived there all his life. He hunts on this area. I have hunted on the area. I have seen some of these things. I have seen the beauty that many will refer to. But I have also stood on the roads in this area to look at that beauty. You can drive through it with a four-wheel drive truck from one side to the other. One part of it is less than a mile wide. You can get in the middle of it and hear traffic on either side. It is bounded by a road that is highly traveled on the south. And there is Weyerhaeuser land on the north, clear-cut areas on the north. It is not a wilderness area.

Representing the local people, we feel it is totally political. We feel Mr. Bethune in his home State is in trouble, and he can ignore the 7,500 residents of Perry County and that he can concentrate on central Arkansas and the metropolitan area of Little Rock to getting votes. We feel like it is totally political.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you.

Mr. McKinney.

STATEMENT OF ED MCKINNEY, PARON SCHOOL DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

Mr. MCKINNEY. First of all, I would like to say it is an extreme honor and privilege for us to be here. We did not know about the hearing except on a short notice. And we were able to make arrangements, our community wanted us to go, and we appreciate the opportunity.

We represent 28 counties in the State of Arkansas and 47 school districts. Quite a few folks are upset—children, teachers, school boards, superintendents. We have contacted and talked to them, and they are highly disturbed over the wilderness situation. All the facts that we talk about or anything we talk about, we do without the aid of any study committees or help from any Government agency, any State or national official.

We didn't have a presentation for you today as far as typed text. We apologize for it. But time was not available to us. We don't have a lot of money. We came here. We contacted to find out about the hearings. After we got some information, we were discouraged, kept uninformed. Denied information. And that always makes school folks suspicious in our State, Mr. Chairman.

The school districts and the county officials and the residents of Arkansas are upset because they feel much of this has been done

by design and deliberately conceived to inhibit or even to prohibit their input.

Most of the facts have been presented to you and probably in many of the written texts you will have many other facts that will be presented there.

One of the things in our area, talking about the Flatside area, that is kind of unique is back in December we had a tornado and it blew down over 10 million board feet of virgin pine timber. Some of that area was in an old designated area they could not get in to harvest the timber—it was lying on the ground, 2 million board feet, the kind you cannot buy any more.

By help from a lot of people and the media and a few other things, we were able to redraw those boundaries, the Forest Service was, able to get in there and clear that timber, sell it and clear it up. If a wilderness is declared, obviously the damaged timber cannot be touched. That is a problem.

The money that we would lose off of it, whether it be \$1 or \$100,000, is money lost forever.

On this particular issue, back when they had RARE II, there were public hearings on these two bills. There have been no public hearings in the State of Arkansas, and our people are pretty upset about it.

The thing is about studies, all the different results that you want, school people are very good about that, because we know when we get ready to do studies, we find out, and when you meet with the people, they tell you what do you want out of this study and then they will tell you how to get there.

So studies sometimes are not always as valid as they may seem.

Many of the roads on the Flatside area are better than the roads we run our buses on. Since it comes off our county roads, can you imagine what would happen if we lose anymore revenue?

There are several things. The oil and gas issue is really not resolved, even though it has been presented several times. There are roads there. There has been cutting there. We also feel that the introduction of this legislation is unfair to our schools and to our counties, and to other members of the congressional delegation. And to the people of Arkansas.

We feel also that the issue is politically motivated, it is being pushed because we are located in an area where there are not many votes. We feel if it was in Pulaski County, there would not be these issues presented. We feel this particular cause is politically motivated.

The issue is emotional. It is spontaneous. Our congressional delegation will have that issue to return with when they return back home.

If I might, Mr. Chairman, let Mr. Johnson, the president of our school board—he is a life-long resident, and he is representing the school board, and the people of Saline County.

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. Johnson.

STATEMENT OF JOE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT, SALINE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, ARKANSAS

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of the public school system in Perry, Ark., I wish to thank you for allowing me to talk to you today.

I am Joe Johnson, president of the board of education at the public schools. I come here today to speak against H.R. 2917.

This bill contains a proposal to create an area known as the Flat-side Wilderness Area. The information I would like to share with you today is not information I have obtained by walking down a hiking trail or listening to someone tell me what the proposed Flat-side Wilderness Area is like, or by flying over this area in a plane.

I am a life-long resident of Western Saline County. I was born and raised in Perry, Ark., which is only a few miles from the proposed Flatside Wilderness Area.

The proposed Flatside Wilderness Area is not a wilderness. I have hunted and camped in this area almost every year since early 1950's. At the time I first started hunting and camping in this area, the area was laced with logging roads. Myself and other hunters and campers used these roads to drive our vehicles up and down in our daily hunting and camping activities.

Today these roads can still be traveled by our hunting vehicles. Only last November, I camped in this area, and deer hunted. The roads were traveled by myself and many other hunters each day during the 1982 deer season.

Also, almost 20 percent of the proposed Flatside Wilderness Area has been logged off in the last 20 years. Most of this logging has been taking place in the last 15 years.

Since 1965 about 6 million board feet of saw logs have been harvested from the proposed wilderness area. The proposed Flatside Wilderness Area contains about 40 miles of roads. It also contains many manmade food plots and watering holes.

If H.R. 2917 is enacted, it will be harmful to the public school systems in many areas of Arkansas, because it will mean a loss of much needed revenue to the public school systems involved.

I realize there are some people who will say that the amount of school revenue involved is small and not an issue.

Gentlemen, I would like to stress to you today that any loss of revenue to a public school system in Arkansas is a very important issue. If we cannot provide our students the opportunity for quality education, I don't think some so-called Wilderness Area will be very impressive to them when they become adults in the years ahead.

Thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

If I understand the testimony of all three of you, is that you do not favor or you oppose the inclusion of the Flatside area as wilderness for two basic reasons.

First of all, you say it is not, in fact, wilderness, for reasons that you have covered.

And, second, it would result in loss of revenues to the county and the schools.

Does that summarize the testimony?

Mr. HIBBARD. Yes.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Along with the idea that the public has not had any great input.

Mr. MORRISON. No questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WHITLEY. We thank the three of you very much for your testimony.

Mr. HIBBARD. We thank you very much, sir.

Mr. WHITLEY. As the Chair looks at the witness list and sees that we have more than 10—and gets to be concerned about time—would the Chair be correct in assuming that Mr. McClure, Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Smith, Mr. Irving, and Mr. Ernst, while representing different organizations basically take the same position on this issue? Is that a fair statement?

Mr. HAMILTON. I am Don Hamilton. We are very much in favor of Congressman Bethune's bill.

Mr. WHITLEY. I would assume that would probably be the case of the other witnesses whose names I called. Are they here?

Mr. McClure?

Mr. McCLURE. Yes.

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. HAMILTON. Yes.

Mr. WHITLEY. If all of you are here, please come up to the table together. I want to be sure we give everyone an opportunity in the time that we have and that we hear both sides of the issue.

I will invite each of you to submit your entire written statement that you may have, with the assurance it will be included in the report in its entirety. And then I will call on each of you.

If you could give the subcommittee a brief summary of your testimony, it would be helpful.

We will start with Mr. McClure, who is with the Arkansas Sierra Club.

STATEMENT OF TOM McCLURE, ARKANSAS CONSERVATION COALITION

Mr. McCLURE. Mr. Chairman, I have a problem speaking today, because I talked too much yesterday. If you cannot understand me, let me know.

I am speaking not only for the Sierra Club, but for the Arkansas Conservation Coalition.

I grew up in Malvern, Ark., in the south-central part of the State, attended college at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and now live and work in Conway, Ark.

I am speaking today for the Arkansas Conservation Coalition which is comprised of nine citizen organizations. The affiliate organizations include the Arkansas Audubon Society, the Arkansas Canoe Club, Arkansas Herpetological Society, Arkansas Native Plant Society, the National Wildlife Federation (Arkansas chapter), League of Women Voters of Arkansas, the Ozark Society, and the Arkansas Chapter of Sierra Club.

During RARE II in Arkansas, about 20 areas comprising approximately 225,000 acres were inventoried in the Ozark and Owachita National Forests. Of this, 35,000 acres were in Oklahoma so the Arkansas portion comprised about 190,000 acres, or roughly 8 percent of the State's National forest land. After the close of RARE II and the completion of further planning studies for these areas, the

Forest Service is presently recommending seven areas for wilderness totaling about 55,000 acres.

Many citizens who participated diligently in the RARE II process were extremely disappointed with these recommendations and felt that several quality areas had been left out. So, during the past 3 years, members of coalition organizations and other concerned citizens and resource professionals went back to the field and the maps and reexamined the remaining wilderness resources in the two national forests. This effort resulted in the formulation of the Arkansas Citizens' Wilderness Proposal which was formally adopted by the coalition in April 1982.

Rigid guidelines were used in the selection process and only the very best of the areas studied were recommended for wilderness. Questionable areas were left out, and many of the inventoried RARE II sites were rejected for various reasons, including one area that was recommended by the Forest Service for further planning. In several instances, the original RARE II boundaries were redrawn to exclude private lands and access roads. Watershed protection and long-range manageability were also given maximum attention.

The coalition represents citizens from all over the State, and our intent from the outset was to secure a representative batch of quality wilderness lands in the two national forests, without causing significant economic hardship to local citizens or businesses. We also worked to eliminate private lands wherever possible, even if it caused an occasional diminishing of wilderness values.

During RARE II the Forest Service estimated that even if all of the inventoried areas were placed in wilderness (alternative H), 65,000 acres more than the Bethune proposal, the changes in employment for any local area would all be less than 1 percent and considered "insignificant."

In short, we believe that even if 6 percent, 7 percent, or 8 percent of these two national forests were set aside, the economic effects on the local economies would be negligible. Our investigation shows that any small losses to the timber or mining industries would be offset by gains in the tourist industry.

Many people feel that a more ideal amount of wilderness acreage for the Arkansas national forests would be 10 percent or 12 percent in order to meet projected recreational needs, obtain adequate ecological representation, while still minimizing any effects to the local economies.

Regrettably, there isn't that much left in Arkansas, so we will have to settle for a lesser amount.

The coalition's proposal and Mr. Bethune's bill will designate about 5 percent of Arkansas' national forest land as wilderness, bringing the total national forest wilderness acreage to about 6 percent in Arkansas. This total represents less than two-thirds of 1 percent of the State's land base.

I urge this committee to support Mr. Bethune's legislation and any strengthening amendments.

I appreciate very much the opportunity to present comments here today, and wish to thank you in the Congress for your continued support of the concept of citizen involvement in public lands decisions.

That concludes my formal statement here, sir. But there are a couple of issues I would like to address real briefly, that have been brought up here, that I think are very, very important.

One is, a lot has been said about the use of the national forest and projected need.

I have talked to the Ozark and Ouachita National Forest about this within the last week and at other times. The way the need is determined in Ouachita National Forest is through signup sheets at the edge of the national forest, and it also is monitored by the ranger there—although there are no wilderness ranger. In the entire district, there is no tabulator counters. And I, myself, have been in the wilderness several times. I have seen the sheet one time, just because I wanted to see what it was, and I went out of my way.

Most of the people I know that visit these areas don't sign the sheets, rarely see them. And the same is basically true in the Ozark National Forest, near the upper Buffalo, except the person up there told me they may have a trail counter on one trail that counts people.

Any estimates made of the projected use of these national forest wilderness areas is not very accurate. And I am not blaming the Forest Service for not controlling it closer. They just don't have the manpower. But it is my belief it should not be used as an important factor in deciding how much wilderness areas we need.

I will speak for myself—I have seen an increased use in the last 5 years in the wilderness areas in Arkansas. On a recent trip to Keen Creek, there were over 20 cars from Texas and Louisiana parked on the trail ahead. We are very concerned these areas might become overused in the future.

Another thing was the process in RARE II. There were statements made that public comments were 83 percent against. I think it is important for the committee to know that during RARE II, RARE II in Arkansas was done right after the Buffalo National River was designated, where 95,000 acres of private land had to be condemned. And a lot of the people in this area thought that the Forest Service wilderness proposals were also going to involve the condemnation of private land.

I visited with the Ozark supervisor. You can go through the mail that was there. In my opinion, 80 to 90 percent of the opposition was based on a misunderstanding, that private land would be taken during the RARE II process.

Another question is why these certain areas qualify. Some people have made the point that there are roads in the areas, that the people can drive across them. I would like to point out that in practically all areas that have been designated and proposed and even recommended by the Forest Service, there has been some impact. These roads, for the most part, they are talking about are old logging trails. They are the ones that the Forest Service recommended as well as the ones we differed on, as well as the ones designated in Missouri 2 months ago and in other places in the east.

I would like to read just briefly the guidelines set up for the Forest Service study in the east. One is because special conditions in the east the following refinements—this is from the Forest Service manual, Washington, D.C., done in 1977.

Because of the special conditions in the east, definition and criteria listed in B-16 above also apply in this geographic area, have been the focus of significant public support for wilderness consideration and have the potential for management for principally natural values.

It also says an area may be inventoried that exceeds not more than one of the following criteria: One-half mile of improved road for each 1,000 acres in the roads under Forest Service jurisdiction, 15 percent of the areas in nonnative vegetation, 20 percent of the area has been harvested within the past 10 years.

I could include one, but not more than one, of those criteria.

That was the areas for inventory. But the point is, these areas in Arkansas, as well as other States east of the Great Plains, are going to have some impact. The important thing is to set aside areas where the forest is basically intact and the watershed systems can be protected, and they will resemble the natural forest more and more.

I would also like to submit for the committee a report that was presented to the delegation last spring. If you can include it in the record, that is fine. If not, just for the use of the committee.

Thank you very much.

Mr. WHITLEY. Without objection, it will be included in the record. [The report is held in the committee files.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. McClure, I have you down on my list as a spokesman for the Sierra Club. And in your testimony, you identified yourself as a spokesman for the Arkansas Conservation Coalition. I have Mr. Irving on my list as a spokesman for that organization.

And also you identified yourself as a spokesman for the National Wildlife Federation, the Arkansas chapter. I have Mr. Hamilton down for the Arkansas Wildlife Federation. I don't know that that is the same.

Mr. MCCLURE. I can clarify that.

The coalition is an umbrella group of all these organizations. Mr. Irving and I are speaking for the coalition.

Mr. WHITLEY. I wanted to be sure that your testimony and their's on these various points would not overlap. Keeping that in mind, Mr. Hamilton, do you have further comments you would like to add?

STATEMENT OF DON F. HAMILTON, ARKANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND THE OZARK SOCIETY

Mr. HAMILTON. Yes, thank you.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to be here. I do have a statement which I have submitted, and I would like, since in the statement I refer to certain exhibits, I would like simply to leave with you all for your file four exhibits which I have marked exhibits 1 through 4. And I will identify these, if I may.

Exhibit 1 is a letter from the deputy forest supervisor, dated April 22, 1983, with enclosures giving some information about PILT payments and forest receipts for Arkansas for the period October 1979 through 1982.

Exhibit 2 is a resolution from metro plan, which is a council of local governments in central Arkansas representing some 400,000 people, a resolution passed on February 24, 1982, endorsing the concept of wilderness and urging the creation of wilderness in our 2 national forests.

Exhibit 3, which is also referred to in my statement, is a list from the public service commission records regarding the reassessment which is a statewide reassessment currently underway, showing the various ratios of the counties compared to the 20-percent ratio required by the Arkansas constitution for assessment of real property.

And finally, exhibit 4 is an analysis prepared by NRDC of the U.S. Forest Service timber sales. And if I may do that, since they are somewhat voluminous, I did not want to make it a part of the record. I did want to leave it here for your information and assistance and consideration.

Again, I do speak in favor of Congressman Ed Bethune's bill, H.R. 2917, to designate all 11 of these areas, and I offer my comments on behalf of the Arkansas Wildlife Federation and the Ozark Society as was indicated.

We are a member of a 9-organization coalition, in total amounting to approximately 10,000 members. We, of course, participated in the surveys and evaluation processes.

I think there was some comment from Congressman Anthony about 83-percent opposition. I would simply like to point out that what he is referring to, I believe, is a letter from John Orr, forest supervisor, dated January 24, 1979, advising that written responses totaling over 3,400 for the Ozark and over 1,100 for the Ouachita were a significant factor in developing final recommendations for the 2 national forests.

So I believe we are talking about approximately 4,500 recommendations.

I think the problem has been in the opposition, a lot of misconceptions.

The first misconception was the idea that private property was going to be taken, and there would necessarily be condemnation of property.

Now, you all may recall that in past years legislation was adopted preserving the Buffalo National River as a national river. And that did involve condemnation.

People in this area are very, very skeptical, as you can well understand.

I think people are gradually understanding that they don't have a problem in that regard now. Recently the economic effects seemed to be a big factor. And I think that the evidence shows, as we have heard in the early hearing this morning, that there will not be the adverse effect that the people—some of the people—seem to fear, because I can assure you we certainly don't want them adversely affected.

I have lived in Arkansas 46 years, all my life, except for a little bit of time out for service and schooling. And that is the last thing any of us want.

I think the evidence shows that it will not happen, although I do think there is some misunderstanding about it.

I would like, if possible, to incorporate by reference in the hearing this morning before the earlier committee, the Parks Committee, the information that the Forst Service is supposed to supply, because there were a number of questions asked about the effects.

I think it would be helpful for you all to have that information. Maybe that is a procedure you follow anyway.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hamilton appears at the conclusion of the hearing. Exhibits are held in the committee files.]

Mr. WHITLEY. We certainly will have access to all of the information that the Interior Committee contains.

Mr. HAMILTON. OK.

One other point, too.

We had a slide show that volunteers had prepared, and because we have shown it to members of our congressional delegation, that there is cassette with it that explains these 11 areas and our position.

On the premise that these pictures show much more than any of us could ever tell you, the slides, that is, we simply want to make it available. It is in the possession of Marsha Tarkington, in Congressman Bethune's office. It takes about 13 to 14 minutes to see.

I think you would enjoy it. Congressman Alexander said he would definitely be looking at it.

As to the adverse environmental impact, I think that there has been some reference to RARE II. And with all due respect to the Forest Service, I think that the results based on the California cases of the *Bergland and Block* decision which I have cited in my statement, and briefly discussed, cast so much doubt on the value of the RARE II process, because of the lack of adequate public involvement.

Also, even though it may assess the economic effect, it simply did not get to the unique natural features within the area.

But giving whatever weight you want to give it, I think it should be pointed out that the specific package references—if all the 26 areas referred to in the EIS were designated wilderness, that is over 200,000 acres, the economic or social effects would be small—page 31 is the minerals—less than 1 percent employment, on page 32.

No significant decline or negligible, on page 36.

I think the Forest Service, at least back in 1979, is on record with those opinions. I think the information, as I said before, obtained since that time by Congressman Bethune certainly indicates that that is the case.

Finally, I think we have a chance now to set aside these 11 areas. And it is our last chance, and it is our only chance. It is a very, very small percentage of the overall land base of 33 million acres. It is less than two-thirds of 1 percent.

It is 6 percent of the entire forest. This kind of a chance doesn't come very often.

One thing that really hasn't been considered earlier in any detail was the effect on recreation and tourism. And tourism is one of the important industries in our State. Timber is, too. But so is tourism.

So again I want to express my appreciation for letting us speak. If you have any questions, we will be glad to answer them.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. IRVING: You have heard the testimony of Mr. McClure and Mr. Hamilton. Do you have something in particular you would like to ask?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT E. IRVING, ARKANSAS CONSERVATION COALITION

Mr. IRVING: Yes, I would, with your permission.

I will keep my comments very brief. I do speak for the Arkansas Conservation Coalition, which, as Mr. McClure indicated, is a coalition of nine member organizations and representatives of 10,000 members through those organizations.

In the interest of time, I would like to touch upon something that I think is very important and yet has not been touched upon adequately. It deals with the economic question.

That seems to be the focal point of the interest here this afternoon.

There has been an awful lot of—and rightfully so—concern that the wilderness proposal of Mr. Bethune's will cause a significant decrease in the 25 percent program of schools and roads the counties receive, and that it will have a significant effect on the local economies in general.

All of that is based on the assumptions that if we set aside 5 percent of the national forest as wilderness, that this will have a direct translation into a 4-percent reduction in annual timber sales.

I don't think that that is a fair assessment.

I think we need to look at that first premise very carefully.

The Forest Service, as I have taken from the timber management plans and with discussions directly with the Forest Service personnel in the Ozark National Forest, there is a significant difference between the actual timber sold in a given year and the potential yield of a particular forest.

That is, that yield, given an unlimited budget and manpower, that could indeed be returned in terms of board feet. That difference provides a very significant cushion.

In other words, we have that difference. And if 5 percent of the land is set aside, it will make in reality no impact on the amount of board feet that are removed from the national forests at all.

You could argue that in some distant point in time, that if the forest were managed to its maximum, that the actual sales each year caught up with the potential yield, the annual potential yield, then and only then would that 5 percent have an effect.

But by the Forest Service's own management plan, that potential yield doesn't stay the same each year—it grows.

Indeed, it grows significantly, as their management techniques become more refined, as their budgets allow, as they convert more and more of the forest land to lands that will support merchantable timber, that potential yield goes up quite high by their own projection.

It is doubly full, too, given the use mandate that Congress has given the Forest Service they are ever going to close the gap. Unless that gap is closed, it is just impossible that there will be a significant economic effect on the local economy, on the 25-percent schools and roads program at all.

The PILT programs are not going to be affected by wilderness at all. As you know, there is no change in ownership. So that program will be without effect.

One other comment that deals with the need of wilderness. As Mr. McClure pointed out, it is very, very difficult to assess what the needs for wilderness are in Arkansas or what those needs will be more importantly in 20, 30 or 40 years. I have a little experience which may help.

In my work, I am a consultant to the National Park Service, and have been for several years, working with the new part in Texas, the Guadalupe Mountains in the park. A large part of that is wilderness, and I serve them as a natural resource consultant to their development in that wilderness area.

With that, we have been very sensitive to the kinds of use that park has had. That park is near no metropolitan area. We have watched using from a few thousand backpacker user days 10 years ago to now well over 30,000 backpacker user days with estimates in the next 2 or 3 years to be 50,000 backpacker user days.

Wilderness is a growing recreational need and needs to be attended to.

I think that ends my comments. I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Irving appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Irving.

Moving on, and with the same admonition—and I don't want to cut anyone off, but at the same time we have some seven or eight witnesses. And I want to be sure they also have an opportunity to be heard.

Ms. Smith, you represent the Ozark Society, which is part of the Conservation Coalition. You have heard the previous testimony. Are there specific points you would like to make that have not been already covered?

STATEMENT OF MARY SMITH, CONSERVATION COCHAIRMAN, OZARK SOCIETY

Ms. SMITH. Yes. I am the conservation cochairman for the Ozark Society. I would like to emphasize that the society has been active in conservation issues since 1964—1,500 family membership.

The Ozark Society lead the RARE II review in 1976, surveying 400,000 acres with 7,000 man hours of effort.

Wilderness recreation use has grown by 73 percent nationwide, while the other use has only grown by 27 percent. These particular areas within a 30-mile radius will serve 12.5 million people.

In summary, this bill is needed for current and future demand. Positive benefits will result in the adjacent areas where increased land values demand recreation goods, research and so forth, will be improved.

Arkansas does contain the largest percentage of Federal lands between the Appalachians and the Rockies. The land's importance in regional conservation cannot be overemphasized.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Smith appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Ms. SMITH. Mr. Chairman, I have additional testimony which I would like to submit from Tom McRae, of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation about the economic incentives of the wilderness, and Paul Means, Arkansas Canoe Club.

Mr. WHITLEY. Their statements will be accepted and appear in full in the record.

[The prepared statements of Mr. Means and Mr. McRae appear at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Ms. SMITH. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we urge you strongly to give H.R. 2917 a unanimous recommendation.

Further, as a lifetime resident of Arkansas, and having lived in five different communities and as a public school teacher, I sympathize with the school officials here. But they get a certain percentage of the national forest cut which amounts to the amount of land they have in their counties. Whether it is wilderness or not makes no difference. The forest goes out and cuts a certain percentage of the land.

If it is not wilderness, they just move to another area and get their percentage just the same. It will not affect their school districts.

In our particular school in Bryant, we have an outdoor classroom. This classroom is used, a certain number of acreage, we take children out to see. These wilderness areas could complement the school districts they are in.

Thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Ms. Smith.

Mr. ERNST, we would like to hear from you now.

STATEMENT OF TIM J. ERNST, PRESIDENT, OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Mr. ERNST. Let me set the record straight. I am not a member of the Conservation Coalition.

Mr. WHITLEY. You represent the Ozark Highlands Trail Association?

Mr. ERNST. Yes, which is totally separate.

Mr. WHITLEY. I didn't mean to put you in a coalition that you weren't in.

Mr. ERNST. Hopefully, someday we will be in with them, but we are a relatively new organization, just started a little over a year and a half ago. The members of that organization have sent me up here to express their support for Representative Bethune's bill.

I might add that the last time I came to Washington I walked from Arkansas as part of a hiking group which walked across the United States from one coast to the other to try and lobby for more hiking trails. Even though it was considerably easier to get here this time and took a lot less time to get here, I feel that my reason for being here is just as important as it was when I walked a couple thousand miles to get here.

Our main concern is we are currently working on construction and maintenance of a hiking trail that goes through the main division of the Ozark National Forest, which will be about 140 miles in length, and the Forest Service started construction on this trail in

1977. They spent a lot of money in manpower and construction tools and what not, trying to build the trail.

Before they could complete it, their funds ran out and they had to go to volunteer organizations such as the Ozark Highlands Trail Association to try and pick up the slack. The Appalachian Trail, a couple thousand-mile trail just here in your backyard, has been using volunteer laborers for this same purpose for many, many years. We have already contributed more than 4,000 person-hours.

We have quite a few women that work with us on construction and maintenance of this trail, and it is getting to the point right now, particularly this time of the year, the trail tends to be overgrown in a big hurry with the vegetation and what not, and also there is a proposal that has been put together to link this trail, when it is completed, with several other trails that are proposed to be built across Arkansas, and would also link it to a trail which will stretch across the entire State of Missouri, to make it a 600- to 700-mile hiking trail, which would be really the only major hiking trail of its kind in the central United States.

I think we are going to have a problem in the very near future if we can't keep up with the growth on the trail as far as the vegetation taking over, erosion, and what not. We just don't have enough volunteer labor to do the rest of the construction and to maintain the trail on a year-to-year basis.

The Forest Service has basically no money to help us out. They are doing what they can, and I might add that we have a very unusual positive relationship with the Forest Service, which you don't find too often in outdoor organizations. But they just don't have much money to help us out, and I feel like, the organization feels like, that we need to have some sort of drawing cards on this trail system to bring people in, to bring lots of hikers and hunters and fishermen in to use the trail, and just by their use will help keep the trail quarter open, and hopefully they will be able to contribute to some volunteer hours in the future for construction and maintenance of the trail.

We feel like if these wilderness areas that would be located along the trail corridor, if they are not designated as wilderness areas, we feel like interest in the trail may never develop to what it needs to be to keep the trail open and finish it, and we feel like the trail which the Forest Service has spent a lot of time and money on and volunteers have spent a lot of time and our own money on, we feel like the trail just might be overgrown and eventually be unusable.

So we feel like that in sort of a roundabout way these wilderness areas, if they are designated, will actually save the Forest Service a little bit of money that they won't have to spend in maintaining the trail in the future.

The members of OHTA have asked me to urge you to support Representative Bethune's bill establishing 11 new wilderness areas in Arkansas. We need this wonderful land protected forever. We need the users the land will bring, we need your vote. Thank you for your time and effort.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Ernst, and all of the other witnesses who testified on behalf of the Arkansas Conservation Coalition and its various constituent groups.

Mr. HAMILTON. May I simply introduce for the record the statement of the National Wildlife Federation in support of Congressman Bethune's bill?

Mr. WHITLEY. Without objection, it will be made part of the record.

[The information appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. Morrison, do you have any questions for any members of the panel?

Mr. MORRISON. No, thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. I again thank all of you for your testimony.

We have remaining some six witnesses who I have listed simply as citizens of Arkansas, and I am going to ask all of you again, in the interests of time, which we are running out of rather rapidly, if you will come forward as a group, and we will let you be seated at the table and we will receive your testimony as time permits: Mr. Tom McKinney, Ms. Lissa Thompson, Mr. Jeff Leflar, Mr. Chris Tullgren, Ms. Vicki Hileman, and Mr. George Oleson.

Let me say again, if any of you have prepared written statements, we will be happy to receive them in their entirety for the record, and I will call on you individually and let you either briefly summarize your written testimony or make a brief oral statement.

Mr. Oleson, I will start at your end of the table.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE OLESON, FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.

Mr. OLESON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome this opportunity to present my views, which are very similar to those of the others who have spoken for the Arkansas Conservation Coalition. My name is George Oleson. I am a 32-year-old law student beginning law school at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Like most Arkansas wilderness advocates, I have also lived and worked in Arkansas most of my life.

I grew up in Arkansas near the Ouachita Mountains. The Arkansas woods have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I have come up here today because I feel that the public interests of my State would best be served by the permanent preservation in a natural state of the 11 remnant areas included within the Arkansas Citizens Conservation Wilderness proposal.

There are a number of reasons for wilderness preservation, and I think the committee has already heard the major ones, the most commonly given reasons.

First, of course, the wilderness reservations provide an outside laboratory for scientists to observe and study the processes of nature in an environment which is large enough and sufficiently isolated to allow for the functioning of the entire natural systems. And, of course, the wilderness reservation also provides protection for rare and endangered species of plants and animals.

While it is true that many endangered species of plants could be adequately protected without full wilderness protection, that is not true of the larger species of animals especially large carnivores such as the cougar and the bear, which are found in our wilderness areas in Arkansas.

These species require for their very survival large areas of unspoiled and untampered-with nature. The proposed wilderness pre-

serve, especially those in the Ouachita Mountains, would be ideal habitat for these species as an advantage, as well as providing native populations of these carnivores for wildlife biologists to study, this would also likely increase the quality of the deer herd, which would be of benefit for the hunter in Arkansas.

The second major reason for permanent wilderness reservations is to provide future generations of agriculturalists, foresters and hydrologists with control sites which can be used as standards of comparison for more intensively managed areas.

Although the laboratory and the test plot can simulate many aspects of their natural environment, it is only in a relatively unmanaged wilderness situation that all of the forces of a biological system can be observed in their interaction.

Third, and I think the most important reason for preserving these areas, is that wilderness provides a kind of recreation which is in increasing demand and short supply in Arkansas. Our State is fortunate to be blessed with abundant public forest areas opened to motorized camping, four-wheel drive recreation, and motorcycling.

We are also blessed with dozens of large manmade lakes open to motorboating and sailing of various varieties. Yet at present less than 75 square miles of the State—that is less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the total land area—are available exclusively for nonmotorized outdoor recreation.

Although motorized recreation has its place, an increasing number of Arkansas residents have discovered the joys of primitive camping, backpacking, and canoeing. These people know and recognize that the beauty of our mountains is often best preserved at close range and on nature's own terms.

Our increasingly crowded and civilized society provides, of course, many benefits of a material nature, but the conditions of urban life can work a deadening of sensitivity and spirit.

There is a genuine need in most people to experience wonder, to experience the isolation and solitude of wilderness. This is one thing which is drawing many visitors to Arkansas, and the natural aspects of our State have caused many people to move permanently to the State. The increasing demand for this type of solitude and this type of recreation is causing a lot of pressure on the existing wilderness areas in Arkansas.

A number of points have been raised in opposition to this proposal. Most of them are economic in nature. I won't go into specific rebuttal because I am sure you have already heard enough testimony, taken enough evidence on these points. I would like to make one additional point, though.

Mr. WHITLEY. Quickly summarize, Mr. Oleson. I certainly want to give these other witnesses an opportunity. As I said before, we are rapidly running out of time.

Mr. OLESON. Yes, sir.

Since most of the arguments against wilderness are economic in nature, I think I should say something about that. It is possible to manage our public lands for maximum resource production and make the last dollar possible out of them. But I think if we do that, at the expense of wilderness, at the expense of the last remaining wild places, we may be money rich and spirit poor as a result.

I thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Mr. Oleson.

Mr. Leflar, I have your prepared statement. I call on you for brief comments.

STATEMENT OF JOHN ELI LEFLAR, ROGERS, ARK.

Mr. LEFLAR. Thank you, sir. I am sure you heard Mr. Hammerschmidt earlier speak of his involvement in the Buffalo National River. As a resident of Mr. Hammerschmidt's district, I have greatly appreciated what he has done.

A neighbor of mine, Neil Compton, who is one of the leading proponents during the establishment of the Buffalo River, could not come to Washington today. He sent a prepared statement with me, and I would like to enter it into the record along with a package of photographs which he sent.

Mr. WHITLEY. Without objection, it will be received.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Compton appears at the conclusion of the hearing. Photographs are held in the committee files.]

Mr. LEFLAR. Thank you very much.

On my own behalf, I prepared a brief statement which I would like to summarize. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is John Leflar and I am a lifelong resident of northwest Arkansas, of the district currently represented by Congressman Hammerschmidt, as was my father and his father before him.

I am a high school shop teacher and a father of a 1½-year-old son. My family has used the Ozark National Forest for recreation, travel, hunting, fishing, and camping as long as I can remember. I came to Washington because of the concern I and my family and friends—especially in the hunting and fishing community—have about preserving our outdoor heritage.

It is important to us that there be some wilderness areas set aside for hiking and camping and for deer and turkey hunting in the natural state.

Arkansas has a special deer season for archery and for muzzle-loaders. I could try to talk to you about some technical aspect of the wilderness question like the loss of oxygen in the atmosphere due to the decreasing forest canopy. But I don't think I understand all I know about that anyway.

I would rather talk about something that I think I know a little bit about—the need to extend some kind of protection to the wilderness areas in our national forests. When I was just a little boy, my daddy took me out into the hollers and bluffs of the Ozark hills. He tried to instill in me some appreciation for the land, as his father had done for him. He gave me my first .22 rifle—I still have it at home—but he also showed me the fern beds, the shagbark hickory, and the wild orchids, too.

This is part of the heritage that I hope to pass on to my son. It is for him and others like him who will need a place to go to hunt and fish—a place just to get away from the sounds of civilization, away from the littered campsites and piles of beer cans that represent the outdoor life to so many.

There is plenty of room for the air-conditioned recreational vehicle in our national forest campgrounds. There is plenty of room for four-wheel drive vehicles on Forest Service and logging roads in

the remaining 94 percent of the national forest. I like to get in my old truck and go exploring down some of the back roads, too.

But the multiple-use concept requires—even demands—that at least a small portion of our national forest lands be protected in a natural condition for the enjoyment of generations to come.

None of the sportsmen I know are in favor of condemning private land for wilderness use. Private property rights are very important to Arkansas folks. My wife's family still owns the land they originally homesteaded. It is part of their heritage from generations before them, to be shared with their grandchildren.

That is the way it is with the wilderness areas in our national forests. They are the framework, the setting for our unique Ozark culture. We can protect part of our outdoor heritage and pass it on, intact, to our children, and our children's children. Then they too can experience the land of the Ozark Highlands as their pioneer ancestors did.

Only Congress can bring this about. I don't have the money to buy a piece of land large enough to make a real difference in this, even if I went in with some friends to raise the purchase price. But we don't have to raise any money, because as U.S. citizens we already own some of the finest wilderness lands in the world. They just need the protection of Federal law.

Only you can preserve these small portions of our national forests; our State and local governments can't, and private industry won't. But, as our representatives, you can, at no additional cost to the taxpayers, set aside these 11 areas for use as wilderness.

Please, for our children's sake, for the sake of the citizens and sportsmen of the State of Arkansas, vote for and support the Arkansas wilderness legislation proposed by Representative Bethune, H.R. 2917.

Thank you.

Mr. WHITLEY. Ms. Thompson.

STATEMENT OF LISSA THOMPSON, ARKANSAS

Ms. THOMPSON. Thank you for allowing us to speak at this late hour. I have submitted a copy of my statement for the record, and I have some exhibits that I request be included.

Mr. WHITLEY. We will be happy to receive them.

Ms. THOMPSON. My name is Lissa Thompson. I am a native Arkansan and have been a resident of the State for 31 years. I am here today to testify in support of H.R. 2917, on behalf of the Arkansans who benefit not only from the direct pleasures inspired by our State's natural heritage, but also from the economic advantages tied to our one legitimate resource.

Our natural beauty and associated recreational opportunities help attract new industry and business. An executive location study was prepared by an independent research firm, Market Facts, Inc., of Chicago, for the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission [AIDC]. Executives with top Fortune 500 companies perceived as real pluses for the State its recreational opportunities, ranking as the No. 1 positive attribute, and the scenic character of the State, ranking No. 3 in their overall opinion.

The AIDC continues to tout prospective businesses with these offerings, and it is this above average quality of life that keeps bright, productive people in our State.

Arkansas' scenic wonders and recreational opportunities are also what attract tourists. The promotional slogan for the State Department of Parks and Tourism is "Arkansas is a Natural."

Their current data shows that tourism is a \$1.6 billion-a-year industry, providing employment for 46,000 people and paying \$314 million in wages and salaries. The department says for 1982 a conservative estimate for specific wilderness-related expenditures would be \$6.45 million.

The U.S. Forest Service reports show wilderness use is increasing at 4 percent per year nationwide, having increased 72 percent in the last decade, compared with a 27-percent increase in other recreational uses. The national forest land in Arkansas provides wilderness experience for a region. As I and many others commonly see, there are people from neighboring States of Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Louisiana when we are in wilderness areas in Arkansas. We are fortunate and have the resources to meet the demand and can profit as a result.

Arkansas' undisturbed natural areas provide opportunities for a growing number of its citizens who participate in a wide variety of recreational and wildlife-associated activities.

In its 1980 Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior states that such activities appeal to all kinds of people—black, white, male, female, urban, and rural.

Expenditures from wildlife-associated activities make up a significant part of the American economy. In addition to impressive figures given on numbers engaged in hunting and fishing and the related expenditures, recognition is given to the nonconsumptive use of wildlife. 1,040,000 Arkansas participate, away from their homes, in observing or photographing game and nongame animals.

The State's official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan [SCORP] mentions the need for continued availability of areas in which our State's people can enjoy these activities, as they deserve. Aimed at serving a variety of interests, in which wilderness is a vital element, the plan urges State and Federal agencies in Arkansas to provide for wilderness activities and to protect biological diversity.

The designation of 138,000 acres of wilderness to meet the needs in Arkansas is a reasonable proposal. Such action is consistent with the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act and the National Forest Management Act. Conserving less than 6 percent of the national forest in Arkansas helps provide for more than one purpose.

It would meet the mandated management objectives for the various multiple uses, including recreation, watershed, fish and wildlife protection, and plant diversity. Leaving access to the remaining 94 percent can surely meet the singular goal of commodity use. We are not asking that any land be removed from current production.

Other land can absorb the loss of any potential allowable cut, which would probably be very little since the areas in consideration are not the most productive lands to begin with.

Many people have donated extensive time and money to this effort and tried to insure a thorough review. Wilderness designation for all 11 areas would be beneficial economically as well as ecologically.

We have a broad-based support from all types of private individuals, groups and State agencies who were directly involved in this study.

Wilderness designation today would be a wise investment for tomorrow.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Ms. Thompson.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Thompson appears at the conclusion of the hearing. Exhibits are held in the committee files.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. Tullgren.

STATEMENT OF CHRIS TULLGREN, MOUNTAIN HOME, ARK.

Mr. TULLGREN. My name is Chris Tullgren. I am in Representative Hammerschmidt's district. I have lived there for 30 years. I am going to make one brief comment. I would like you to support H.R. 2917, Representative Bethune's legislation, and I would like to ask that the rest of my statement be entered.

Mr. WHITLEY. The Chair appreciates that brevity and I like the sound of that hometown, that has always been a picturesque name, Mountain Home.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Tullgren appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. McKinney.

STATEMENT OF TOM MCKINNEY, FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some testimony I have already submitted from Dr. Evans, Mr. Roberts, and also Mr. Ernie Dean in Fayetteville. All of them wanted to come to the subcommittee to testify. They could not make it. If I could submit those, it would be appreciated.

Mr. WHITLEY. If you will submit the statements to the clerk, they will be received for the record.

[Mr. Dean's statement not received for the record.]

Mr. MCKINNEY. Thank you. I have also given copies of my prepared statement. I will briefly summarize what I have. I am in a little bit of a different situation than a lot of the folks here. Whereas I am an actual owner of an inholding in one of the areas, Wilderness Creek Study Area, to be exact, I own it jointly with three other principals. We bought it knowing it was in the wilderness study areas, and if anybody should be worried or concerned about the effects of a wilderness area in private property it should be us.

We are aware of this information and the false impressions of many of the local folks over in the national forest have about what wilderness areas will do to their property values or to their property in general.

Their property values, if anything, will rise. We paid above market value for our property, mainly because of its location. Many of the folks were told they would have restrictions put on the use of the property if they were included within the boundaries or on the boundaries of a wilderness area. This, of course, is also false.

In the RARE II statement and the RARE II study, pages 31 and 32, the Forest Service, kind of as an example of how this misimpression came about, spends three paragraphs describing how use of private property will be redistributed.

It also mentions condemnation as a management alternative, and then proceeds to give one sentence stating that these restrictions will not be applied to the Ozarks. It is no wonder this misinterpretation came about. If those restrictions and condemnation policies were actual, then I myself could not support any of these wilderness areas. I do, as a matter of fact, support Mr. Bethune's bill, H.R. 2917.

Briefly, that is about it. I probably shouldn't say this, but one of the earlier gentlemen who testified gave the impression that there has been some denial of information on part of us who are working for the wilderness area, denial of or withholding of information. I am sorry, it is just the way I was raised. I cannot let that statement go past without unequivocally denying it.

We have always been very open with the folks in the county. We have always provided them with information. If they chose to look at or believe that information, that was their prerogative. Even today there are people over there who are spreading rumors. There was one example in the local County Times recently.

Even after it was evident that no private property was condemned, there was a suggestion that a resolution be passed by a justice of the peace that such a resolution condemning, or asking that there be no condemnation of private property be passed by the court.

I hope I am not out of line, but I cannot let that comment go past myself without hopefully making that clear. There has been no misrepresentation on our part.

Thank you very much.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Mr. McKinney.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McKinney appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. WHITLEY. Ms. Hileman.

STATEMENT OF VICKI L. HILEMAN, FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.

Ms. HILEMAN. I will also be brief. I wish to thank you for this opportunity to encourage you to support Congressman Bethune's proposal. I am a native of Arkansas, and Congressman Hammerschmidt's district. I am a craftsman, and I feel that these areas need to be considered very seriously.

I frequent the places in question and I can attest to their beauty and spiritual value. In today's world it means a great deal to me to have the chance to walk in quiet places, to see waterfalls, flowers, and the simple thrill of seeing the wildlife these areas hold.

I hope we don't lose sight of the fact that our wilderness is slowly but surely vanishing and something must be done. We have a responsibility to ourselves and our land, for once it is destroyed there is no turning back.

I feel a mere 140,000 acres is very little to ask for, to secure a little bit of a future for ourselves and our generations to come.

I feel most everything that really needs to be said has been said. I think this is a very small amount of acreage that we are asking for. Ninety percent of our national forests in Arkansas are already too developed to be classified as wilderness, and if we wait much longer the last 10 percent will also be undesirable.

I believe this is a responsibility that we have to ourselves and to our land, and I personally want these areas for children to come.

I thank you very much for your time.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you, Ms. Hileman.

I want to express the appreciation of the Chair and the other members of the subcommittee for all of you coming here and sharing with us your views on this matter. It really helps us to get first-hand information from people who are directly knowledgeable and who are involved. We appreciate the time you took to come here and testify.

I am sure that we would find that we have a lot in common, if I had an opportunity to stay and visit a little while.

Ms. THOMPSON. We would like to extend an invitation.

Mr. WHITLEY. I have a stack of mail to sign and an airplane to catch, so I am going to have to leave rather precipitously. Again I want to thank all of you, and to assure you that the testimony that you have given her today will be shared with all of the members of our subcommittee, and all of the members of our full committee. Whatever decision and deliberation we arrive at will be done taking your views and your testimony into consideration.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted the record to reflect the same invitation to you and the members of your committee that we gave the earlier committee to come down.

Mr. WHITLEY. What kind of fish do you have on the Buffalo River, smallmouth?

Mr. HAMILTON. Yes, sir. Last September I had real good luck.

Mr. WHITLEY. Thank you. Now, Mr. Pembleton.

STATEMENT OF ED PEMBLETON, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, WEST CENTRAL REGION, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mr. PEMBLETON. Mr. Chairman, my name is Ed Pembleton.

Mr. WHITLEY. Mr. Pembleton, I have your testimony. It has been submitted, and without objection, will be made part of the record.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pembleton appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

Mr. PEMBLETON. I thank you for that. I would like to add two points. There is a letter included with my testimony from the Arkansas Audubon Society, also, and on the second page, the end of the first paragraph, I would like to enter that there is a copy of the above-mentioned letter in the testimony of Mary Smith.

Mr. WHITLEY. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thank you very much.

Mr. PEMBLETON. Thank you, sir.

[Whereupon, at 4:55 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned.]

[Prepared statements and submitted material follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. BEERYL ANTHONY, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mr. Chairman: I am pleased to be here today to discuss the important issue of wilderness designation for Arkansas. I believe it is vitally important to resolve the wilderness issues associated with RARE II, both in Arkansas and in other states as well. State by state wilderness determination is the best means of accurately determining the areas most appropriate for wilderness while releasing other areas for multiple use management.

Those of us from Arkansas are justifiably proud of the natural beauty of our state. The state is not large but it contains a diverse topography and several distinct natural regions. The rugged northern and western sections of the state are separated into the Ozark highlands and the Ouachita highlands and contain the areas under consideration as wilderness. We are fortunate that even in a relatively small state, we have such choice locations which have been preserved in a manner that readily allows them to be managed as wilderness. For this, we owe our appreciation to the U.S. Forest Service and its dedicated public servants.

North of the Arkansas River, the Ozark plateau extends into Missouri and contains the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest. Three of the areas proposed for wilderness in H.R. 2452 are located in the Ozark National Forest. South of the Arkansas River, the Ouachita Mountains dominate the Southwestern quadrant of the state and contain the Ouachita National Forest which extends into Oklahoma. The other four areas proposed for wilderness in H.R. 2452 are located there. Two of those areas lie astride the Arkansas-Oklahoma state line. These seven areas represent the recommendations of the Forest Service as a result of the RARE II process and fully qualify as quality wilderness.

Each national forest currently contains one wilderness area designated by the Eastern Wilderness Act in 1975. The Upper Buffalo Wilderness in the Ozark Forest contains 10,542 acres and the Caney Creek Wilderness in the Ouachita Forest contains 14,344 acres. If the areas in H.R. 2452 become law, the National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma would have 80,000 acres as wilderness. I believe this would be adequate to serve the existing and projected future needs for wilderness.

It is particularly appropriate that we legislate additional wilderness acreage in Arkansas at this time. The nation has gained a new awareness and appreciation of wilderness in the twenty years since passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The inventory and study of existing roadless areas now provides a wealth of information to assist Congress in designating the highest quality areas as wilderness. The participation of the public in this process assures that all voices are heard and that a proper balance is achieved.

When the RARE II process began in 1977, Dr. Rupert Cutler, then Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, set out as one objective of the study a speedy resolution of the wilderness issues so that the Forest Service could plan confidently regarding the future of all the national forests. I share that goal and I believe that the issue of wilderness in Arkansas has been studied sufficiently to determine where those areas with quality wilderness are located. We do have excellent areas in Arkansas, they have been identified through the RARE II process and the Forest Service has made its recommendations. My bill, H.R. 2452, reflects those recommendations.

The RARE II process identified two dozen areas in the two national forest which have many of the criteria desirable as wilderness. Of these, seven have been found to possess the characteristics most desirable as wilderness including great beauty combined with geological formations unique in the two mountain ranges. Their habitat and ecosystems reflect the diverse wildlife found in Arkansas, and their remoteness from the more developed regions of the state insures that they will not suffer from excess population pressures.

In each area chosen, social and economic factors including effects on timber sales, employment, school revenues, and economic development criteria were considered as part of the process. I believe such factors must be considered as very important due to the low per capita income statistics in our state.

The Forest Service environmental impact studies of the various roadless areas under consideration received extensive and quite diverse viewpoints and opinions. Those ranged from total opposition to any wilderness whatsoever, across the spectrum to support for vastly more acreage than is covered by H.R. 2452. This is another reason why I believe that the Forest Service recommendations represent a proper balance of these diverse views.

The first Forest Service recommendations of 1982 covered five areas:

Ouachita Forest, Black Fork Mountain (Arkansas and Oklahoma), 11,560 acres; Upper Kiamichi River (Arkansas and Oklahoma), 9,172 acres.

Ozark Forest, Hurricane Creek, 15,057 acres; Richland Creek, 6,290 acres; and Upper Buffalo Addition, 1,504 acres.

Additional recommendations in 1983 were made to include two other areas in the Ouachita National Forest. The final Environmental impact studies have not yet been completed and reviewed but I have chosen to include these in H.R. 2452:

Dry Creek, 6,310 acres.

Belle Star Cave, 5,398 acres.

The total acreage in my bill plus the two existing wilderness areas already in existence would bring total wilderness acreage in the two National Forests to about 80,000 acres. The areas inventoried during RARE II covered some 225,000 acres of roadless areas in the two national forests of Arkansas and Oklahoma. If one assumes that the 225,000 acres in the inventoried roadless review plus the 25,000 acres of existing wilderness constitutes the universe of areas with the greatest wilderness potential, then H.R. 2452 would designate about one-third of the total universe and would release the other two-thirds for multiple uses.

In view of the competing needs and economic considerations involved, I believe this is a fair and equitable distribution of wilderness and nonwilderness which allocates the best areas to wilderness while insuring that valuable timber and other natural resources will be available to meet future needs of the public as a whole.

Economic considerations cannot be ignored because counties and school districts within the national forest receive several million dollars each year as their share of revenue from the sale and use of national forest products and services. Additional moneys are also made available as payment in lieu of taxes.

While the formula which determines county and school income will not be altered by the designation of wilderness, some revenues must necessarily be foregone by the Forest Service which could affect the total income for distribution to the schools and counties each year.

The Forest Service has calculated that the income to be foregone by my bill, if enacted, would exceed \$120,000 annually. The income to be foregone if all areas under consideration become wilderness would exceed \$360,000 annually. These are not inconsequential sums in view of the fact that we are talking about annual sales foregone in perpetuity.

This is not to say that the counties and schools will have their incomes reduced significantly if additional wilderness is designated in Arkansas. Clearly, they will still draw their pro rata share of all Forest Service sales based on the amount of government land in the county. It is only to say that valuable timber will never enter the marketplace once wilderness is established by law.

In conclusion, I believe that H.R. 2452 represents a moderate and fair resolution of the wilderness issue. The areas in my bill have been through the RARE II process and the final environmental impact has been determined.

My bill includes high quality areas. Marginal areas and areas which did not receive consideration as part of RARE II are not included. The wilderness areas in H.R. 2452 are pristine, relatively inaccessible, and worthy of being called wilderness. The other roadless areas which were reviewed by RARE II should be released and judicial review of the environmental impact statements of the Arkansas areas should be ended by the passage of H.R. 2452.

STATEMENT OF
F. DALE ROBERTSON, ASSOCIATE CHIEF
FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Before the Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives

On H.R. 2917 and H.R. 2452

MAY 26, 1983

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

We appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Committee to discuss the provisions of H.R. 2917, a bill "To designate certain public lands in north-central, northwestern, and western Arkansas as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System" and H.R. 2452, a bill "To designate certain lands within the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests in the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma as wilderness areas, to release other lands within such national forests for use other than wilderness, and for other purposes."

The Department of Agriculture recommends enactment of H.R. 2452 with certain amendments. The Bill would establish six new wilderness areas totaling 55,905 acres and add 1,504 acres to the existing Upper Buffalo Wilderness. Four of the areas; Black Fork Mountain, Hurricane Creek, Upper Buffalo Addition, and Upper Kiamichi River were recommended for wilderness designation in the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement. We support designation of these areas with the following acreage corrections: Black Fork Mountain 12,320, Upper Kiamichi River 10,410, and Hurricane Creek 15,177. The 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act established the Dry Creek, Belle Starr Cave, and

Richland Creek as wilderness study areas. The Forest Service has completed the basic study of these three areas and is currently in the final stages of completing the Environmental Impact Statement for the studies. Draft Impact Statements have been completed for these areas and circulated for comment. The Final Statements are being completed and should be issued in the near future. We recommend that action on these three areas be deferred until the study process has been completed, the results have been circulated to interested agencies, and recommendations have been transmitted to the Congress by the President. We will do our best to expedite this process. We also support the provisions of H.R. 2452 providing for release of nonwilderness areas

In addition to wilderness designations proposed by H.R. 2452, H.R. 2917 would designate four additional wilderness areas and would significantly enlarge the Richland Creek and the Belle Starr Cave (Poteau Mountain) areas. The Department of Agriculture does not support wilderness status for these four additional and two expanded areas and, therefore, recommends that H.R. 2917 not be enacted.

Three of the four proposed additional areas proposed by H.R. 2917 for wilderness, Penhook, Leatherwood, and East Fork, were recommended as nonwilderness in the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement. Penhook was not recommended for wilderness because of important timber values, 16 miles of roads, and numerous pine plantations. Leatherwood was not recommended because there are approximately 499 acres of private land in 11 widely scattered tracts, 91 miles of roads, important timber values with numerous pine plantations, and man-made wildlife openings. East Fork was not recommended because it has high timber values, 78 miles of roads, two cemeteries, and significant evidence of past logging and management activities. All three

areas are included for planned future timber sales.

We recommend that Penhook, Leatherwood, and East Fork areas not be designated as wilderness.

The proposed Flatside wilderness contained in H.R. 2917 was not included in the RARE II inventory because the area did not meet criteria for the Roadless Area Review. Since 1965 6.5 million board feet of timber has been harvested from the area. There are 40 miles of primitive roads and 1.2 miles of all-weather road in the Flatside area. Eighteen percent of the acreage included in Flatside is in young, recently regenerated timber stands and the remainder of the area is in second growth. The Forest Service has invested \$59,000 to date on preparation of current timber sales and wildlife improvement work in this area. The State of Arkansas has also planned wildlife improvement in the area. Because of the existing developments which we believe are incompatible with wilderness and other resource values, we recommend this area not be designated wilderness.

H.R. 2917 designates Richland Creek as wilderness containing the Congressionally designated Richland Creek Wilderness Study Area and the Richland Creek further planning area, for a total of 11,790 acres. As previously indicated, the Department of Agriculture recommends deferring designation as wilderness of the smaller 6,290 acres area until completion of the studies and we recommend against designation of the remainder of this area because of existing roads, cutover forest lands, a cemetery, and privately owned mineral rights within the area.

H.R. 2917 also designates the Poteau Mountain Wilderness. This area is a combination of three RARE II areas; Belle Starr Cave (WSA), Belle Starr

East, and Belle Starr West further planning areas. The Forest Service has completed studies of the East and West Belle Starr areas together with the Congressionally designated Belle Starr Cave Wilderness Study Area and is in the final stages of completing the Environmental Impact Statement. As previously stated, we recommend that action on this area be deferred until the study process has been completed and the President submits his recommendations to the Congress.

H.R. 2917 would designate only those acres in Black Fork Mountain and Upper Kiamichi that are in Arkansas. The portions of the adjoining areas in the State of Oklahoma should be designated as wilderness at the same time the Arkansas portions are designated. Based on the RARE II recommendations, the Department supports the designation of a Black Fork Mountain Wilderness of 12,320 acres and an Upper Kiamichi Wilderness of 10,410 acres including lands in both Oklahoma and Arkansas.

This concludes my prepared statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

STATEMENT BY
 WAYMOND TEAGUE, WOODLANDS MANAGER, BIBLER BROS., INC., RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS
 TO THE COMMITTEE OF HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF FOREST, FAMILY
 FARM AND ENERGY
 MAY 26, 1983

Mr. Chairman, I am Waymond Teague, Woodlands Manager for Bibler Lumber Company and I speak in that capacity today.

The 1979 final ⁽¹⁾ Environmental Statement Roadless Area Review and Evaluation recommends setting aside 42,204 acres in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forest as wilderness. Mr. Anthony's bill, H.R. 2452 ⁽²⁾ and cited as the Arkansas and Oklahoma Wilderness Act of 1983, recommends that 58,478 acres be declared wilderness. Mr. Bethune's bill H.R. 2917 ⁽³⁾ calls for approximately 131,709 acres to be designated as wilderness.

Close consideration should be given to the cost/benefit ratio of the above proposals. The following is an economic analysis in an attempt to show the costs or the transfer in value into the wilderness program that will be incurred in each of the proposals.

The compilation below shows the amount of timber, and its value by areas of each of the three proposals. The sources of the data are shown as footnotes. Extrapolation of some of the Forest Service data was necessary. The data used is public information, and I urge those who are interested to do their own analysis.

- (1) RARE II Summary Final Environmental Statement Roadless Area Review and Evaluation January 1979 Forest Service 324 Publication.
- (2) H.R. 2452 cited as Arkansas and Oklahoma Wilderness Act of 1983.
- (3) H.R. 2917 cited as the Flatside Wilderness Act.

	Volume	Value (4)
1. <u>Forest Service Proposed Area</u>	<u>MMBFS (4)</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Hurricane Creek	49.0 (6)	\$ 6,092,000
Upper Kiamichi River	30.0	4,187,000
Black Fork	50.0	5,396,000
Upper Buffalo Addition	6.5 (6)	845,000
	<u>135.5</u>	<u>\$16,520,000</u>
2. <u>Anthony's Proposed Area</u>		
Upper Kiamichi River	30.0	\$ 4,187,000
Black Fork	50.0	5,396,000
Dry Creek	19.9	2,664,000
Belle Star (Cave)	13.3	1,836,000
Hurricane Creek	49.0 (6)	6,092,905 (5)
Richland Creek	42.5 (6)	5,525,000 (5)
Upper Buffalo Addition	6.5 (6)	845,000 (5)
Total	<u>211.2</u>	<u>\$26,545,905</u>
3. <u>Bethune's Proposed Area</u>		
Flat Side	37.9	\$ 5,518,000
Upper Buffalo Addition	6.5	845,000
Hurricane Creek	49.0	6,092,905
Richland Creek	42.5	5,525,000
East Fork	75.5 (6)	9,915,000 (5)
Pen Hook	13.5 (6)	1,755,000 (5)
Leatherwood	22.0 (6)	2,860,000 (5)
Black Fork	50.0	5,396,000
Upper Kiamichi	30.0	4,187,000
Belle Star (Cave)	13.3	1,836,000
Dry Creek	19.5	2,664,000
Total	<u>359.7</u>	<u>\$46,493,905</u>

359.7 MMBFS will build approximately 36,000 single family houses.

If fair market value was assigned to the land at \$200/acre, timber at the above computed value, improvements at \$50/acre and computed for the 42,204 acres in the Forest Service proposal, the cost would be \$27.0 million. This figure does not include annual administrative or maintenance costs, nor is annual appreciation in value of the assets considered. On a like basis the cost of Mr. Anthony's bill would be \$41.2 million, Mr. Bethune's bill would have a similar cost of \$79.4 million.

- (4) Bill Walker, Ouachita National Forest, Hot Springs, Arkansas, May 1983
 (5) Computed at \$20/ton based on Ouachita Average
 (6) Ozark and Ouachita Highlands States. Supplement to Draft Environmental Statement Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, June 1978 U.S. Forest Service.

The Forest Service proposed area grows at current market value \$1,645,956 worth of timber annually. (6) This volume of timber would support 87 jobs year around. The number of jobs that the timber would provide is based on the production rates of Bibler Lumber Company.

Mr. Anthony's bill that involves 58,478 acres grows \$2,280,000 worth of timber annually, and volume sufficient to provide for 140 jobs. The land in Bethune's bill generates \$5,148,000 in timber growth, which would support 276 jobs.

The removal of public timber from the market place has several effects:

1. It increases the amount of industrially owned timber as a percentage of the total timber available for market. Small businesses are heavily dependent on public timber.
2. It could cause industry to acquire more privately owned timber lands.
3. It would increase our reliance on non-industrial privately owned timber (the small landowners). This could cause mandatory control to be placed on the use of this land, and/or it could increase the size of the Forest Incentive Program. In either case, it would cause more government participation in the management of small wood lots.
4. It will intensify the resource uses on the non-wilderness areas.
5. Fifty-two percent (52%) of all the commercial soft wood is on federally owned lands. Even a greater percentage of the sawtimber size trees, and the high quality trees are on federal lands. Wilderness would capture a greatly disproportionate amount of this highly desirable timber.

Revenue loss because of wilderness designation is determined by the amount of merchantable timber, plus the growth that is on the wilderness area. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the revenue generated from timber sales, leases, recreation fees, etc., stays with the federal government, and 25 percent is returned to local government. The local government loss is 25 percent, but the big loser is the federal government, thereby the tax payer.

The turn back to the local government is 25 percent of gross receipts or \$.75/acre whichever is greater. If the 25 percent is less than \$.75/acre the payment in lieu of Taxes (PILT) makes up the difference. PILT money comes from the general fund, the taxpayer. If the 25 percent share equals or exceeds \$.75/acre, an additional \$.10/acre is paid for PILT funds.

If the 25 percent share is greater than \$.75/acre, PILT funds pay \$.10/acre. If it is only \$.40/acre the PILT pays \$.35/acre.

Assumed for an example a forest with 1,000,000 acres:

<u>Timber Sales</u>	<u>Timber Sale Revenue</u>	<u>Turn Back PILT</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$3,000,000	\$750,000	\$100,000	\$850,000
2,900,000 - .03%	725,000	25,000	750,000
2,800,000	700,000	50,000	750,000
2,000,000	500,000	250,000	750,000

A small decrease in revenue at the \$.75/acre gate would mean a much greater decrease in turn back funds.

The charge has been made that the cost of managing the land is greater than the income from timber sales. This isn't true. A check was made on the Ouachita to see if a positive cash flow would be generated just from timber sales, if the land remained in multiple use. All the areas produced a positive cash flow except Belle Starr Study Area, and it produced a positive cash flow when the 25 percent contribution to local government was considered as other than a cost to the federal government.

The annual revenue loss just from timber sales on the proposed wilderness areas would amount to \$1,645,956 for the Forest Service proposal, \$2,280,000 for the Anthony bill, and \$3,148,000 for the Bethune Bill. The loss to the counties would be 25 percent of the above figures.

The following are some examples of revenue losses attributable to wilderness designation.

1. The Penhook and East Fork areas have a combined total of 27,260 acres. The productivity ⁽⁶⁾ of the land is 1.95 tons of wood/acre/year for a total of 53,157 tons/year for the whole area. At a fair market price of \$20/ton, this area will produce \$1,063,140/year, of which 25 percent of \$265,785 will go to local governments.

2. Actual figures are available for next year's timber sale program on the area known as "Flatside." The timber sales are estimated to produce \$480,395 in gross revenue. The cost of preparing and administering the sales will be \$18,215. Post sale cost, which includes regeneration of the forest cover and site reclamation, in other words, putting the site back into production, will cost \$111,350 leaving a net income of \$350,830, of which the counties will get \$120,099.

3. The minerals and rights to do exploration for those minerals in many of the proposed wilderness areas are owned by parties other than the Forest Service. If the party chooses to do exploration, he has the right of ingress and egress and to carry out those operations, which are necessary and prudent to develop those resources.

There are only two ways to stop the exploration and development; one is for the Forest Service to buy back the rights to the minerals, and the other is Congressional action. To buy back the rights to an area with high gas production potential is out of the question. Three areas in the Ouachita National Forest and three areas in the Ozark National Forest have either producing, proven and possible high minerals status.

4. Caney Creek wilderness area in the Ouachita near the Arkansas-Oklahoma border, recently suffered a southern pine beetle epidemic. It resulted in the loss of 1.2 mmbfs of standing timber, which will build 120 houses and had a fair market value of approximately \$290,000. In an effort to stop the epidemic, the Secretary of Agriculture granted special permission to enter the area, to use chainsaws to fell timber and let lie.

Additionally, there is an estimated 2.80 mmbfs in the area yet to be felled and let lie. This timber is worth \$672,000 and will build 280 more houses, and there is no guarantee that the epidemic will be stopped after this sanitation cut. It may very well spread to privately owned lands. Not only is \$962,000 lost in revenue to the government, the cost to fell the timber to date is \$18,000.

5. There are occurrences other than the recent Caney Creek pine beetle outbreak of epidemic and endemic proportions of both diseases and insects in and around the proposed wilderness areas. In 1971 the species *Dispheromera Fomorata*, or the common Walking Stick, defoliated 138,000 acres near the proposed upper Kiamichi River area. The Black Fork proposed area has had extensive defoliation in the past also, and *Fomes Annousus* (a root rot) is a problem in this area. The infestations have been endemic in these areas for the last three decades.

The Ouachita National Forest and the Ozark National Forest have 60 developed campgrounds, 150 miles of trails, three interpretive trails, several scenic vistas, Talimena Scenic Drive (55 miles), an arboretum and Nature Center, numerous floating creeks, Blanchard Springs Caverns, five wilderness areas totalling approximately 63,000 acres and a lodge in the planning construction stages. In addition is the Buffalo National River nearby and another 63,000 acres of wilderness is within a 250 mile drive.

The use of the existing wilderness area is difficult to obtain; at best it is an estimate.

The Caney Creek wilderness area has been in existence since 1976 and has an average of 8,600 visitor days/year. The area is comprised of 14,400 acres, so the use has been: one person spent 12 hours each year for every 1.67 acres in the area, or each acre was used (visited) for seven hours each year.

Another way is to compute maximum allowable usage to actual usage. This method shows that the area was used at 30 percent of its capacity (maximum being two visitor days/acre/year.)

Values using the volumes and dollars involved in the previously mentioned Caney Creek pine beetle damage sanitation cut, an acre in this area has \$3,840 worth of timber on it. Together, with the value of the land at \$200/acre this means one acre which is worth \$4,000 is set aside for one person to visit it for seven hours each year!

The Upper Buffalo Wilderness area in the Ozark National Forest is currently being utilized at the 15 percent level.

The increase in usage of the wilderness system is projected to follow a straight line with the population increase of approximately 1 - 2 percent. With the current usage of the areas at the 15 - 30 percent level, it is difficult to see the need for additional wilderness; certainly to the extent of Mr. Bethune's bill. Even at the four percent level, we already have enough wilderness to satisfy our needs through the year 2045.

The argument might be, if the areas aren't set aside now, it will be too late to do so in the future. I submit to you that if the criteria for wilderness eligibility today is broad enough to include some of the currently proposed areas as wilderness, then there can be little down now to the area that would disqualify them for consideration as wilderness in the future.

This comes from the fact that there is very little difference in the proposed areas and the rest of the forest. In fact, the quality of the areas seems to be of no consequence in the selection process; otherwise, the Forest Service recommendations would be adhered to more closely.

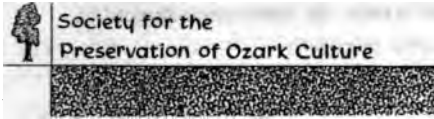
The Forest Service recommended 43,000 acres as wilderness. Mr. Anthony's bill increased that amount to 53 percent, and Mr. Bethune's bill increased it 360 percent. I dare say Mr. Bethune's bill makes a mockery of the Forest Service efforts. It also ignores the desires of the majority of the citizens in the Ozark region of Arkansas. There were 3,400 letters written to the Ozark National Forest supervision during the RARE II process, of which 85 percent wanted no wilderness.

It should be noted that the RARE II process started in early 1977. It is absolutely essential that this issue be settled. Until it is settled, the country will suffer under a de facto wilderness status on all the acres that were included in the process.

It is our position that there should be some wilderness. The question is, how much? Current usage of these areas in Arkansas certainly doesn't indicate that the amount Mr. Bethune recommended is needed. We can acquiesce to the fact needs should be met today. Certainly a compromise is in order and therefore, we would endorse Mr. Anthony's bill.

11812

	Belle Starr Study	Belle Starr Post	Belle Starr Rest	Big Creek	Blackfoot Plantation	Upper Klamath	Flatlands
A. Gross Receipts	17,428	45,600	23,420	42,991	20,992	29,500	21,000
B. Prep. & Admin. Costs	9,500	10,210	9,545	11,040	20,230	16,000	19,000
C. Payment to Counties	6,357	11,400	5,850	10,748	21,743	19,000	15,000
D. Ret After B & C	3,571	23,990	8,005	21,206	46,014	44,500	27,000
E. Post Sal. Costs	6,250	14,250	6,750	12,550	21,700	17,000	11,500
F. Net	- 2,979	+ 9,440	+ 1,255	+ 1,656	24,314	+ 29,500	200,250



May 26, 1983

The Honorable Charles Whitley, Chairman
 Sub-Committee of Forests, Family Farms and Energy
 House Committee on Agriculture
 U. S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Whitley:

Transmitted, herewith, is a statement outlining the position of the Society for the Preservation of Ozark Culture with respect to the Arkansas Wilderness Bills, HR 2452 and HR 2571.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this hearing, and are hopeful that the recommendation made will be helpful to the United States Congress in arriving at wise decisions for the management of the National Forests in the State of Arkansas.

The following is the Wilderness status for the Ozark-Ouachita Highland area.

Caney Creek, AR -----	(NFS) -----	14,433 ac.
Upper Buffalo, AR -----	(NFS) -----	10,542 ac..
Big Lake, AR -----	(FWS) -----	2,600 ac.
Ponca, AR -----	(NPS) -----	11,400 ac.
Lower Buffalo, AR -----	(NPS) -----	22,100 ac.
Upper Buffalo, AR -----	(NPS) -----	2,200 ac.
Roaring River Hills, MO ----	(ST) -----	2,075 ac.
Mudlick Creek, MO -----	(ST) -----	4,180 ac.
East Fork, MO -----	(ST) -----	1,050 ac.
Piney Creek, MO -----	(NFS) -----	8,400 ac.
Hercules Glade, MO -----	(NFS) -----	12,315 ac.
Devil's Backbone, MO -----	(NFS) -----	6,800 ac.
Rock Pile Mtn., MO -----	(NFS) -----	3,920 ac.
Mingo, MO -----	(FWS) -----	8,000 ac.
McCurtain Co., OK -----	(ST) -----	15,680 ac.
Total -----		134,225 ac.

The present use of the wilderness areas in the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands is 0.3 visitor days, per acre, per year.

The Forest Service states that use could increase to 2.0 visitor days, per acre, per year with out effecting the ecology.

Therefore, the use of wilderness in this area could increase by 567% before more wilderness would be needed. The projected increase in wilderness use will be the same 2% straight line increase, as projected for the population growth. This proves there will be no need for additional wilderness areas in the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands for many years to come.

Relating to experiences from existing wilderness areas in our region, we find the following detrimental effects that any additional wilderness would cause:

It would take more forest away from the timber managers, making it very difficult to control disease, insects and fire, plus a total loss of storm damaged timber.

It would effectively lock out the majority of Americans from more areas of the National Forest.

It would make search and rescue much more difficult for the local law enforcement agencies.

It would make it very difficult if not impossible, for the local law enforcement agencies to control illegal use of the areas by closing all the roads.

It would cause an increase in the cult-like communes that are attracted to the peripheral areas of a wilderness, disrupting the traditional cultural pattern of the area.

It would cause a loss of revenue to the local school systems and local governments, due to the loss of turn-back money from timber sales.

It would effect the local economy through loss of timber work, and timber related industries.

The irony of this is, our state has spent \$3,000,000 to preserve the Ozark Culture in plastic and cement, at the Ozark Folk Center. At the same time the Federal Government is destroying the true natural Ozark Culture.

The Society for the Preservation of Ozark Culture is appreciative of this opportunity to offer its comments. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance in the final resolution of these Arkansas Wilderness Acts...

Respectfully yours

Louis Gregoire
Louis Gregoire, President

Box 64

Pelsor, AR 72856

Enclosures

cc: Senator Bumpers

Senator Pryor

Congressman Hammerschmidt

Congressman Alexander

Congressman Bethune

Congressman Anthony

Mr. R. Max Peterson

Governor Clinton

national forest
 reservation of user culture
 no. 21, 195

california

"The white paper system works to management of National Forests"
 the wilderness act: a contradiction and a secret

That is the case. In 1964 the public law #88-577. Its long-
 term effect is a contradiction and a secret. It is written
 that whoever is faced with average sentiment will endorse. But,
 the law of National Forests has already been governed by laws that
 require a continuing relative degree of wilderness (meeting commonly-
 understood definitions). Consequently, this law is obvious in
 the eyes of rational persons. Furthermore, besides thereby fram-
 ing a policy of security and that managed forests have no wilderness
 values, the expression of need therein for formal wilderness man-
 agement makes extreme interpretation and polarization of uses
 necessary only in the "practical" concept, and this is verified by
 the restrictive measures within the law itself. Yet, in apparent
 contradiction, the law specifically says: "Nothing in this act shall
 be deemed to be an interference with the purpose for which National
 forests are established as set forth in the act of June 4, 1897,
 and the Multiple Use, Sustained Yield act." But when the National
 forests were established by the act of June 4, 1897, Congress said:
 "No National forest shall be established except to improve and pro-
 tect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing
 favorable conditions of water flow, and to furnish a continuous
 supply of timber for the use and necessities of the citizens of the
 United States."

With proper management for sound, proper management and conser-
 vation purposes and the need for the development of the recreat-
 ional potential, the advocates of wilderness areas seek to remove
 portions of commercial timber from the benefits of management.

If these forest forests are to be perpetuated, they must be
 protected and managed. The development of the recreational potential,
 the protection of the forest from the ravages of insects, disease
 and fire, and the harvesting of over-ripe trees provides employment
 and a valuable contribution to the national economy so great it
 cannot be supplied by any other.

Then it can be seen, the purist philosophy which keeps the American people out of their own land as embodied in the Wilderness Act, is an unwise misuse of our wilderness resources, and causes us to starve for recreational facilities in the midst of plenty, much as Hindus starve but will not eat the sacred cows that wander all around them; a situation where the most beautiful land in America is sequestered by physical barriers against use by 99% of our citizens, and preserved for recreational use by 1%, who on examination prove to be the intellectual elite, is reminiscent of the practices of the European aristocracy, who until very recent times kept vast areas of magnificent lands as hunting preserves, from which the common people were excluded; and, a philosophy which creates in actual operation a 'de facto discrimination' against vast segments of the American public on the grounds of taste or stamina is as unfair to the individual thus excluded as discrimination due to race or color. The bills which were introduced to establish a "Wilderness Preservation System" were stated to be "for the Permanent Good of the Whole People". That representation has proven to be false.

The wilderness or preservationist groups have gotten support from a wide range of people by appealing to emotions rather than reason. Had reason prevailed, the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club efforts toward establishment of wilderness would have come to naught. What, then, have they wrought? Are they in reality conservationists; or great destroyers? In the first place, a tree cannot be preserved. It is a living thing born to struggle, live and die. A tree's span of life is variable. Even a redwood, which lives to be several hundred years old, has survived only at the expense of thousands of trees which have died to make room for the remaining giant. Any grand old veteran of the unmanaged forest has reached its dominance only because hundred of other trees have succumbed to its competition and have died to become snags and windfalls. By contrast, in managed forests these potential losses are harvested as the trees mature. Thus "preservation" destroys rather than conserves.

Effects of More Designated Wilderness
on Ozark Crafts-people

Designating so much of the Ozark National Forest as wilderness could deprive local crafts-people of their livelihood, especially those who depend on the forest for raw materials. The traditional method of joining green wood with dry, to make a durable tight joint without any artificial fasteners as used in chairmaking, is such a craft.

In Colonial times this art was practiced in the tidewater country and migrated with the early settlers to the Ozarks where it continues to provide employment and a reasonable income for those of us who have been willing to work and preserve our heritage.

The woven seats of these "cane bottom" chairs have always been of the best locally available natural fiber. In the Ozarks, the best is the inner bark of the bitternut hickory, a tree of little commercial value, which grows in relative abundance in the hardwood sectors of the Ozark National Forest. Unfortunately, trees of chair seat quality seem to grow best in areas that wilderness proponents would place in limbo forever. (Wilderness Study Areas are treated as de facto wilderness areas.)

The selective scattered type of cutting used in harvesting these trees has little impact other than timber stand improvement.. However, wilderness designation would allow no cutting at all in these areas.

The existence of local sawmills hinges on timber purchases from public lands. We chairmakers obtain all of our green stock from these mills. As more and more timberland is taken out of production, fewer sawmills can operate.

Basketry, another traditional craft in the Ozarks employs many more people than chairmaking. Making white oak splint baskets originated with the Cherokee Indians in North Carolina but was kept alive in the Ozarks by white men who recently retaught the Indians who had lost the art over the years.

The white oak basket is a very popular and salable item to most people who visit the area's tourist attractions and craft shops. It is a welcome supplement to the local economy.

Basketmakers who live in or on the fringe of the Ozark National Forest rely on buying white oak from public lands. The Forest Service presently appears to be able to supply this demand and blend this selective cutting into its regular timber stand management.

Taking thousands of acres off the available list could upset this balance and cause too great an impact on the remaining nearby acreage, or, force the basketmaker to obtain his material too far away to be practical.

Crafts that do not depend on forest products for raw materials would be adversely affected if wilderness designations engulfed enough of the countryside to curtail tourism.

Those of us who are self employed and toil with our hands are considered inconsequential by the time of slave regimented masses. and by continued encroachment upon our habits would take away our independence and force us into ghetto type living. At present we are gainfully employed and are not on welfare. We serve our country and community with honor when called upon, and as any other minority group, we must insist upon our right to a place under the sun.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jack McCutcheon
 JACK McCutcheon

Mt. Judea Public School
Ford W. Ewing, Superintendent
Mt. Judea, Arkansas 72655

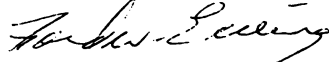
Honorable Congressmen:

I would like to take this opportunity to express concern for the results of designating additional Ozark National Forest Land as wilderness areas. The loss of revenue to local schools will hamper their ability to provide an adequate educational program for our future citizens.

We have been presented information that shows the loss of revenue to each school containing national forest land would be 9¢ for each acre national forest land in the district under Congressman Bethune's bill, and 3¢ for each acre of national forest land located in a local school district under Congressman Anthony's bill.

Also, the loss of timber related jobs would weaken the local tax base further reducing the ability of local schools to provide an adequate educational program.

Sincerely yours,



Ford W. Ewing, Supt.



DEER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

DEVOREN COWELL SUPERINTENDENT

DEER ARKANSAS 72638

May 23, 1983



TO THE HONORABLE CONGRESSMEN

I speak for all the schools of Newton County in saying we are opposed to any further expansion of designated wilderness in our area. The National Forest Service does a good job of managing, growing and harvesting, the timber in this area. Wilderness simply means taking that land out of production for the use of a few--only 1 per cent of Americans will ever backpack into a wilderness area. Putting additional land into Wilderness means that the jobs the local people depend upon for their livelihood will disappear and likewise the people whose ancestors came to the hills generations ago. Without these jobs the population will become so sparse that educational institutions will be moved and transporting children such distances will not be feasible. We live in this rugged area because we chose to do so. We would hate to leave because someone would choose to hike or camp here.

Sincerely

Devore H. Cowell

Superintendent, Deer School District
Newton County, Arkansas



Ray Watkins
SHERIFF AND COLLECTOR
Newton County, Arkansas

PHONE
801-468-6134
P.O. BOX 312
JASPER, ARKANSAS 72041

May 24, 1983

TO THE HONORABLE CONGRESSMAN:

RE: Act #HR2771
Act #HR2452

On behalf of the Newton County Sheriff's Department, as Sheriff, I would like to express my feelings on any expansion of the designated Wilderness Area.

We have had many different cases in our National Forest area calling our attention. We have delt with people hiding from the law, we have had man hunts which has taken days to cover the area. The National Forest attracts this type of activity because it is unlikely for someone to notice them. We fear hunting lost children because of its depth. Growing illegal substance such as Marijuana has become well known in the area for the same reasons.

Considering the size of the Forest area it is difficult for me and my manpower, which consist of two deputies, to search the area for someone lost or to take notice of someone hiding out or finding marijuana. If more land is made into Wilderness, it will definately bring more crime to Newton County. It will take away police protection from our local citizens.

Please note that this is only a small example of what has taken place within the National Forest here in Newton County and consider what could happen by expanding it at a law enforcement point of view.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ray Watkins in dark ink.

Ray Watkins
Sheriff

RW/dlf

Newton County Judge

POST OFFICE BOX 435
JASPER, ARKANSAS 72641

ALTON CAMPBELL
OFFICE PHONE
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May, 24, 1983

Honorable Congressmen's:

As being elected by the people of Newton County, it is my responsibility to have a voice in what is right for Newton County.

"Wilderness" is not for the people of my County.

We have 24,142 acres of wilderness, which is 18% of the total wilderness in the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands, whereas, Congressmen Bethune and Anthony are trying to take 31,265 acres more, this being 26% of the lands still being considered under Rare II designation.

I think Newton County already has enough wilderness and we don't need any more.

Sincerely yours;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alton Campbell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Alton Campbell, Newton County Judge

STATEMENT OF DON F. HAMILTON ON BEHALF
OF THE ARKANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND
THE OZARK SOCIETY

My name is Don F. Hamilton, and I am a resident of Little Rock, Arkansas, where I am engaged in the private practice of law. I have lived in Little Rock for over forty six years except for a few years of schooling out of state and my military service, most of which was in Korea almost 25 years ago.

Today, I would like to speak in favor of Congressman Ed Bethune's Bill, H.R. 2917 to designate 11 areas in our Ozark and Ouachita National Forests as wilderness areas. I offer my comments today on behalf of the members of the Arkansas Wildlife Federation and the Ozark Society because I am a member of the Board of Directors of both of these Arkansas-based conservation groups, and I have been asked to make a statement reflecting our views. Both the Wildlife Federation and the Ozark Society, along with seven other groups, make up the Arkansas Conservation Coalition.

The Arkansas Wildlife Federation was founded in 1936, and it is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation. Our membership of over 3,500 includes all ages of Arkansans who not only hunt, fish, hike, camp, and enjoy the many other recreational opportunities of Arkansas, but also are committed to conservation of our land and our many resources, including the two national forests which are largely situated within the state of Arkansas.

The Ozark Society is also deeply committed to conservation, and its members reside not only in Arkansas, but also in surrounding states including Missouri and Oklahoma. The Ozark Society was founded approximately 20 years ago for the principal purpose of preserving the Buffalo River which at the time was in danger of being privately or publicly developed. Fortunately, legislation was passed establishing the Buffalo as a National River.

It hardly seems possible that almost 14 years to the day, Arkansans gathered in Washington to argue the fate of the Buffalo. The question was whether the Buffalo should be preserved as a national river or left to private development or fall victim to the Corps of Engineers to be dammed. The estimated land

acquisition cost in 1969 for preservation was \$9.2 million, and the land to be acquired amounted to 95,736 acres, 92,000 of which were privately owned. What a tragedy it would have been if Congress had failed to preserve the Buffalo as a national river!

Like the Buffalo River question in the sixties, the preservation of the eleven areas specified in Congressman Bethune's Bill and the designation of these areas as "wilderness" is one of the most important land use decisions Arkansans will ever have. Unlike the Buffalo, we are not asking the expenditure of any federal funds, and we do not desire the taking of any private land. We are only asking that eleven areas of exceptional natural beauty be left as they are.

Theodore Roosevelt's advice in 1903 about the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon is equally applicable to the natural beauty of Arkansas evidenced by these eleven areas:

"Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it. What you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children and for all who come after you..."

In the sixties, fears by some were expressed that unless the Buffalo River was developed, privately or publicly, we were headed for an economic loss. The same sort of gloom is now forecast by those who say that local governments will suffer if the eleven areas are left alone and not subjected to timber or mineral production. Such a prediction is untrue and not only is unsupported, but also contradicted by the evidence.

Before discussing the opposition to the wilderness designation for these eleven areas, it should be remembered that the virgin upland hardwood forests of Arkansas vanished long ago. The great oaks which dominated our forests in earlier days were turned into railroad ties and barrel staves generations ago during very heavy logging operations. The forests we have now in the areas comprising the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests

were truly, at the turn of the century, "the lands that nobody wanted," as explained in detail by Willaim E. Shands and Robert E. Healy in the book by that title published by the Conservation Foundation in 1977.

Now, thanks to past conservative timber management practices, as well as rugged terrain which kept a few areas from being heavily logged, there are mature stands of hardwood trees mixed with some pine. These areas meet the criteria which define certain land as suitable for wilderness because it is now in a natural state offering solitude and unconfined recreation although it was once impacted by man.

The purpose of the Wilderness Act is to preserve certain parts of the national forests in their natural state, not only for our use and enjoyment, but, more importantly, for the recreation and education of our children and theirs to follow. Thus, they will be able to know the natural beauty of our land, which probably inspired more greatness from our founding fathers than many of us comprehend.

The Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) performed during the past few years in connection with the Wilderness Act was initiated by the United States Forest Service and assisted by other interested citizens including those from conservation groups and various industries. During this evaluation, the land comprising the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests was thoroughly investigated, inventoried, and evaluated to determine what, if any, specific areas met certain criteria for wilderness. Later, an environmental impact statement was issued by the United States Forest Service assessing the economic, as well as the environmental impact of designating certain areas as wilderness.

Much of the land had not been mapped in almost fifty years and is very rugged. Information about these areas came

not just from records and statistics, but also from those who had walked, camped, canoed, hunted, fished, and studied the lands and streams of the areas.

Based upon workshop discussion and the analyses of the Forest Service, certain areas were determined to be suitable study areas for wilderness. During the same time, the Ozark Society conducted independent, detailed field investigations of the proposed areas. I specifically studied and prepared a report on the Hurricane Creek Area.

Suffice it to say that the United States Forest Service selected certain areas worthy of wilderness designation from many other possible areas, including the proposed Hurricane Creek area.

It is that recommendation ^{with} ~~which~~ which I respectfully dissent - not as to areas selected, because they are worthy, but as to the areas omitted, because they also are worthy. This is especially true in the case of the Richland Creek area in which the Forest Service recommended only that 6,290 acres be designated as wilderness, instead of 11,790 acres. If only those areas recommended by the Forest Service are set aside as wilderness, then the others are lost for unborn generations who should not have to bear such a loss. Congressman Bethune's Bill would set aside the eleven areas, whereas, Congressman Anthony's Bill, H.R. 2452, would set aside only some of these areas.

There are very few places in the United States, particularly the eastern portion (let alone the Sunbelt area), which can boast about having publicly-owned, pristine natural areas within two or three hours of heavily populated urban areas. Arkansans may rightfully make that claim, that is, if you act favorably on Congressman Bethune's Bill

to set aside and preserve 11 small portions of our two national forests. Thus, such cities as Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Texarkana, and West Memphis, just to name a few, would have a type of recreation to offer that very few cities elsewhere can match.

The Ozark and Ouachita National Forests occupy about 2.5 million acres of our state which contains over 33 million acres. The 11 proposed areas, if added to existing wilderness areas, would represent less than 6 per cent of the national forest land in Arkansas and less than two thirds of 1 per cent of the state's land.

The diversity and unique natural features of these areas can furnish a lifetime of fascination, not to mention recreation. Each trip, you see something new, and each season of the year shows you something you did not see before.

The Hurricane Creek area in Johnson and Newton County can be reached in a two and one half hour drive from Little Rock. This area is dominated by Hurricane Creek, which runs through mountains full of dogwoods in the spring and brilliant colors of maple and gum trees in the fall. Here you must wade a clear, boulder-strewn Ozark stream in order to walk on a turn of the century logging road, which eventually becomes a trail through an unspoiled mature forest of beech and white oak trees mixed with pine precariously situated on steep contours. Then you reach a secluded valley. The gray stone fences in the forest attest to days gone by and seem almost like ghosts among the trees. The rock bluffs and the Natural Bridge, not to mention the rock shelters, are unique to this area.

Farther north in Newton County, say another hour, is the Upper Buffalo addition of 1,500 acres of Ozark beauty to the existing Buffalo Wilderness area. This addition will complete boundaries of the existing upper Buffalo Wilderness and give further protection to our national treasure, the Buffalo River. The rugged and beautiful Leatherwood area lies to the east in Marion, Searcy, and Stone counties, and contains Leatherwood Creek, another tributary of the Buffalo River.

The proposed Richland Creek Wilderness area is one of the most outstanding wilderness areas of the Southwest. It is situated in Newton and Searcy Counties. Less than one hour north

of Russellville, this area consists of rugged mountains containing not only the beautiful creeks known as Big Devils Fork and Long Devils Fork, which form a magnificent twin water falls each over 20 feet in height, but also the larger beautiful Richland Creek. Richland has a water falls well over 50 yards^l wide. The Creek flows north to the Buffalo in the middle of rugged mountains lined with bluffs, some adorned by dogwood blossoms or lush vegetation in the summer, but always beautiful whatever the season.

East Fork in Pope County and Van Buren^{County} has numerous creeks and even bogs or swamps of extreme biological and botanical significance. Nearby Penhook, located in Pope County, contains some of the headwaters of one of the most beautiful and prized streams in the Ozarks, ^{the} and Illinois Bayou, not to mention bluffs and shelter caves, creeks and waterfalls with diverse communities of flora and fauna.

Similarly, the Ouachita National Forest contains five natural areas each of which equally deserves the designation of "wilderness." These are: (1) Belle Starr (Sebastian and Scott Counties), an hour away from Fort Smith, (2) Black Fork Mountain (Polk and Scott Counties in Arkansas, and LeFlore County in Oklahoma), (3) Dry Creek (Logan and Scott Counties), (4) Flatside (Saline and Perry Counties), less than an hour from Little Rock, and (5) Upper Kiamichi River (Polk County in Arkansas and LeFlore County in Oklahoma).

These 11 areas are outdoor museums that need to be protected. They are priceless treasures for our education and enjoyment.

If these areas are not designated wilderness, then we will have closed our eyes to the words of one of the most respected foresters who ever worked for the United States Forest Service, Aldo Leopold.

In his book, A Sand County Almanac, Leopold defined wilderness as "the raw material out of which man has hammered the artifact called civilization." Leopold saw value in wilderness for recreation, science, wildlife, and spiritual well-being. He accurately observed that "wilderness could not grow, only shrink."

It is hard to realize that there are over 33 million acres of land in the State of Arkansas and less than 3 million acres consisting of public lands of the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests. It is even more difficult to understand why the areas appropriate now for wilderness designation (but probably never more in our lifetime) should not be set aside and preserved by law. After all, laws can be repealed or amended as circumstances may require. In the unhappy event that the trees or minerals in those areas become so valuable in the distant future that they must be removed because of a compelling public need, the law can be changed to permit it.

I believe that the majority of our citizens favor the preservation of the last remaining natural beauty in our national forests. If I am wrong, then I think we have forgotten our wilderness heritage. Surely, this is too precious to forget, let alone lose.

Many Americans do not realize that our national forests are subject not only to timber production, but also to many other uses such as mining, mineral extraction, grazing, watershed control, along with wildlife and many diverse outdoor recreational uses. Many who ~~use~~^{want} our national forests to be used primarily for timber production fail to recognize the federal Multiple Use - Sustained Yield ~~act~~ law of 1960 which accords equal treatment to uses other than timber production, including recreation. Indeed, our two national forests in Arkansas afford to Arkansans and others recreational experiences which the private ~~sector~~^{sector} simply cannot provide. The wilderness

experience is one of these, whether you desire to hunt in the quiet of the forest absent any groans of vehicular traffic, or simply to walk a trail and look for wildflowers or study the various communities of plant life undisturbed by the impacts of our modern world. Finally, the National Forest Management Act of 1976 assures the right, perhaps the duty, for the public to have a say in the management of our national forests.

The recent Roadless Area Review and Evaluation conducted by the U. S. Forest Service in 1977 through 1979 was a disappointment to say the least. The many weaknesses of this study were discussed in detail by U. S. District Judge Karlton in California v. Bergland, 483 F. Supp. 465 (E. D. Calif. 1980), and also the opinion by Judge Tang of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in California v. Block, 690, F.2d 753 (9th Cir. 1982). The bottom line is that the RARE II was a failure because the public was not truly involved or given the opportunity to be involved, and the evaluation consisted of nothing more than the proposal of areas as wilderness because of their lack of productivity without an adequate analysis of the unique natural features and important environmental aspects of the wilderness study areas. The Forest Service's failure is why we are here today, and is precisely the reason why numerous citizens of Arkansas and surrounding states conducted our own analysis under the leadership of the Ozark Society in 1978 which eventually became the basis of ^{the} Arkansas Conservation proposal of the eleven areas identified in Congressman Bethune's Bill.

While the case for wilderness in general is well stated by Aldo Leopold, the need for wilderness areas in Arkansas is dramatically illustrated by the intensive management practices followed in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests. The extensive use of clear cuts, herbicide application, and road building illustrate this point, not to mention the recent

lawsuit by those residents living in close proximity to the Ozark National Forest in Newton County.

It seems like only yesterday that Forest Supervisor Jim Crouch stood before U. S. District Judge G. Thomas Eisele in Little Rock, and, finally, voluntarily agreed to stop the aerial application of 2-4-5-T in the Ozark National Forest, as well as the conversion of hardwoods to pine. This agreement came in November, 1978, several years after the residents filed suit to stop these practices, and an injunction was issued very shortly thereafter by Judge Eisele on June 24, 1975. A final order was entered early in 1979. Later, the U. S. Forest Service announced the cessation was purely for economic reasons rather than for environmental reasons. Even now, the U. S. Forest Service is conducting studies ^{of the conversion of hardwoods to short leaf pine.} ~~to permit the use of 2-4-5-T.~~ This lawsuit was the case of Newton County Wildlife Association v. Henson, Case No. LR-75-C-173.

It seems clear that our two national forests are paying their fair share to the local governments in which parts of the two forests are located; and, I invite your attention to the compilation of figures of sums paid as set forth in Glen Kyle's letter to me dated April 22, 1983. For example, please note that the payments by the Forest Service relating to Forest Service land far exceed property taxes paid on comparable lands owned privately. This is particularly true in Pope County, and it is common knowledge that not only does the Ozark National Forest contribute handsomely compared to private timber lands, but also ^{Pope County's} ~~the county's~~ tax base primarily consists of the nuclear power plants owned by Arkansas Power & Light Company which contributes even more handsomely to the County. The rate-payers in reality make those payments, of course.

Those who support Congressman Bethune's Bill value highly local government and public education. In my case, my family and I have been very much involved in both. Indeed, I, personally, am the product of both. None of us take our government or schools lightly; and none of us would support a law which would adversely affect local government or public education.

We do not know what the gross or net revenues will be for either of the two national forests in Arkansas next year. The Supervisors can make projections which necessarily relate to demand and costs, more than supply. But we do know that the eleven areas have so far not affected gross revenues, and I cannot believe that there is not sufficient timber in the remaining 2.5 million acres of forest land to sustain the necessary yield to produce sufficient revenues.

State funds have been and still are available to those school districts to insure a minimum level of financial support. This is accomplished by State law under the School Finance Act and the allocation of minimum foundation program aid, set forth in Ark. Stat. Ann. §80-8501. Even if the existence of wilderness areas jeopardized the finances of local school districts-which they do not-state law provides assistance for any shortages whatever the cause. It always has and always will because we in Arkansas appreciate the importance of public education, as well as local government.

It seems ironic to me that any County in which a wilderness area is proposed should now complain about a loss of possible revenues. That is not true according to the report of Richard Wolf, a specialist with the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress to Congressman Bethune. Moreover, the findings in the recent Court ordered state-wide property re-assessment litigation indicate that many of the counties in which our two national forests are located have grossly underassessed privately owned real estate. I am referring to the Supreme Court decision of Arkansas Public Service Commission v. Pulaski County Board of Equalization, Case No. 79-25 reported in 266 Arkansas Reports, P. 64. It seems particularly unreasonable that these counties now complain that wilderness areas will decrease ~~National~~ forest payments to their local governments when privately owned lands within the same counties have fallen far short of paying their fair share. If you are interested in these amounts, determined in 1979, these figures from the Assessment Coordination Division of the Arkansas Public Service Commission are included with the exhibits to my statement, and County re-assessment is underway now.

The RARE II Environmental Impact Statement was defective in many respects. But its strong point (and I believe there was one strength) appears to have been the economic evaluation of the wilderness areas. At least, that is the conclusion of the California court decision about the methodology of the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). Indeed, the most unproductive areas were proposed as wilderness. Furthermore, the thrust of the E.I. S. was an evaluation of economic impacts, not a meaningful consideration of the environmental importance of the areas proposed.

In Arkansas, the point is repeatedly made in the RARE II E.I.S. that if all 26 wilderness study areas were ~~designated~~ ^{designated as} wilderness, the economic or social effects would be "small" (P-31, as to minerals), "less than 1% in employment" (P-32),

"no significant decline" (P-36) or "negligible" (P'36). ^{200,000}
Needless to say, we are not proposing as wilderness all ^{much} acres
studied for wilderness. Rather we are asking for ~~less~~ than
~~that~~ that amount. That reduces any possible economic effect
even more. Furthermore, consider the Arkansas Park and
Tourism report which details the economic benefits of the
proposed wilderness areas.

Finally, the Report of the Natural Resources/Counsel dated June 1980, should not be ignored. All of us need to face up to the fact that while local governments in which our national forests are located are paid based on the amount of gross sales, some sales are "deficit" or "loss" sales. Guess who stands behind such deficits or losses. We, the people, by payment of our taxes into the general treasury make up for such losses while the local governments are paid notwithstanding the loss. According to the report, the Ozark National Forest / has had several annual operational losses. Be that as it may, please note the discussion on page 27 and 28, as well as the tables in Appendix 4. Quite obviously, the sale of timber and road building in the wilderness study areas constitute the biggest potential for deficit or loss sales. This is still another reason why the local government's opposition is without merit. Even now, the bulldozers, saws, and timber harvesting equipment are poised for action on East Fork. We have a projected gross return, but apparently no idea of the net return.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would simply like to say that last month I prepared an article about the status of possible legislation concerning wilderness in Arkansas. The article was for publication in the Arkansas Gazette, the oldest newspaper

West of the Mississippi River, published in Little Rock. I did not know what title to give this article, but the editor, Bob McCord, titled it Our Chance To Bequeath The Wilderness. That title accurately expresses my sentiments now. However, I think Congressman Bethune's bill is more than just our chance to bequeath the wilderness. It is our last chance and only hope to preserve these 11 areas for present and future Arkansans, their neighbors and their friends who may one day wish to visit these outdoor museums so that they may see, feel, or study the origins of their culture inheritance. Numerous elected and appointed public officials support the establishment of wilderness areas in Arkansas, as indicated by resolutions; and I hope you also will support Congressman Bethune's Bill, our priceless bequest.

DON F. HAMILTON
1550 Tower Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Robert S. Irving
ARKANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

My name is Robert Irving and I am a resident of Little Rock, Arkansas. I hold a Ph.D. degree in biological science and I am president of a small engineering and environmental consulting firm.

Today I wish to speak in favor of Congressman Bethune's Bill, H.B. 2917, to designate 11 areas in our Ozark and Ouachita National Forests as wilderness. I offer my comments on behalf of myself and the Arkansas Wildlife Federation. The Arkansas Wildlife Federation consists of over 4,000 members who are hunters, fisherman and a variety of out-of-door enthusiasts. The Federation has long been a supporter of wilderness and strongly endorses Congressman Bethune's proposed legislation.

Wilderness should never be a question of economics alone. Rather most of the wilderness decision should rest on the understanding that wilderness areas are a finite and limited resource and if we do not act they will soon disappear forever. Yet, the economic aspects of the wilderness issue cannot be ignored, and in the Ouachita and Ozark mountain regions of Arkansas it is critical that we examine these aspects carefully.

There are two considerations:

1. The potential loss of revenues through a presumed reduction timber sales and mining activities, and
2. The potential economic gain through the revenues of recreation, tourism and industrial location.

In my limited time I will share a few thoughts on the first of these considerations

In recent weeks, and in testimony this morning, there has been the repeated concern that setting aside 6% of the National Forest as wilderness as proposed by Mr. Bethune will translate into a 6% reduction in average annual timber sales. And further, that this reduction will cause a significant decrease in the 25% schools and roads payments and in the local economy as a whole. These are serious concerns to be sure; yet, careful examination of the facts reveal that they are not warranted.

First, it should be pointed out that while the proposed wilderness areas represent approximately 6% of the National Forest land, they represent far less

acreage in terms of productive timber lands. Indeed, much of why the candidate sites retain their wilderness values today is because, with some exceptions, less productive, less accessible, and more costly to harvest. Some would extend this point further and say that preserving these less productive and inaccessible lands as wilderness will save the Forest Service money by shifting management to the already roaded and generally more productive sites.

Second, in each forest there is a significant difference between the quantity of timber sold each year and the forest's potential yield. In the Ouachitas the Timber Management Plan calls for an average annual program harvest of 153mmbf while the average annual potential yield is 225 mmbf. In the Ozarks this year's sale target is 46 mmbf and the potential yield 79 mmbf. Moreover, it is important to remember that the potential yield is not static but increases as management converts more and more of the forest into stands of merchantable timber. What these differences in sale volumes and potential yields mean is that the saleable timber set aside through wilderness designations can and will be made up for by timber sales in other portions of the National Forest. Even in the distant future, given the mandate of multiple use, it is unlikely that this compensating cushion will ever disappear. In short, there will be, at least in the foreseeable future, no reduction in timber sales in either forest because of wilderness and no change to the existing revenues received by the counties under the 25% program.

Related to this issue is the study entitled, "Giving Away the National Forest" published in June of 1980 by the Natural Resources Defense Council. This report documents that in the years 1974-1978 while the Ouachita Forest Made approximately 57¢ for each dollar invested the Ozark forest lost 36¢. Given these marginal economies it is difficult to understand how the proposed wilderness areas can be construed as profitable timber lands.

On the mineral side of the question three points need to be raised:

1. No existing mines or active wells will be affected by the proposed eleven areas.
2. Even with wilderness designation it is our understanding that existing leases will remain in effect for 10 years and,
3. There is no evidence to suggest that the wilderness areas contain valuable or oil and gas deposits.

The RARE II Environmental Impact Statement supplement to the Ozark and Ouachita Highland States prepared by the U.S. Forest Service provides the following overview of the economic impact of wilderness -- even with all 26 of the RARE II sites recommended for wilderness.

"The economic impacts of all the alternatives and of allocations to wilderness, further planning-wilderness, and further planning non-wilderness are minor for the impact areas of the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests. The placing of all roadless area lands into wilderness through Alternative J would result in no significant change in employment in any area."

Finally, while economic concerns should be a part of wilderness decisions, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that there is nothing in the Sustained Yield - Multiple Use Act or in the Wilderness Act to suggest that only poor and non-productive lands should be eligible for wilderness. Often when discussing the economics of wilderness the word lock-up is used -- it is an unfortunate metaphor. Wilderness is not a lock-up but a door, a door opening to scientific inquiry, education, recreation and the preservation of wild things.

"Hearings on Arkansas Additions
to the National Wilderness Preservation System"

May 26, 1983

Mr. Chairman, my name is Mary Smith, Conservation Co-Chairman for The Ozark Society, a 4-state regional conservation, education and recreation organization devoted to stream protection, wilderness and wetland preservation. The Ozark Society embraces the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Oklahoma with a current roster of approximately 1,500 members. Since 1964, the Society has been intimately involved in conservation issues in each of these four states.

I am here today to testify on behalf of The Ozark Society in support of H.B. 2917, Congressman Ed Bethune's comprehensive proposal to see 11 areas in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests designated wilderness by Congress under the auspices of The Wilderness Act of 1964.

Since 1976, with the beginning of the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, the Ozark Society has been at the forefront of the wilderness movement in Arkansas. At that time, the Arkansas Conservation Coalition appointed the Society to manage a state-wide wilderness review on behalf of the organization as a whole. This review was undertaken by the Conservation Committee of the Society. Eleven field teams were developed, consisting of professional naturalists, resource managers, and interested citizens, and these teams surveyed on foot over 400,000 acres of National Forest land at an expenditure of approximately 7,000 manhours of effort. At that time the Society was interested in seeing about 142,000 acres given an "instant wilderness" recommendation by the Forest Service. Instead, the Forest Service was able to recommend only 26,000 acres or 14% of the 185,000 acres considered by them during RARE II.

Between 1978 and 1980, the Arkansas Conservation Coalition was reorganized. More groups became members, by-laws were rewritten, and priority projects

ere identified. Since 1980, the wilderness issue has been the dominant activity of the Coalition. A Wilderness Task Force was established to serve as coordinators for this important project.

You can understand why the Coalition, and The Ozark Society specifically, was so pleased to learn of Congressman Bethune's interest in the wilderness issue. During October of 1982, the Congressman spent two weeks in the state, discussing the wilderness idea with local groups, commercial interests, state and federal agencies and conservation organizations. Six months later we were pleased to learn that the Congressman agreed with our findings--that the areas being considered for wilderness designation did represent a conservative, reasonable proposal, totaling only 6% of the National Forest land, without measurable negative impacts to landowners, to economies, or to Forest Service multiple-use options, but with significant positive impacts instead. The Conservation Coalition feels that every effort should be made to set aside these wonderful reminders of unmanaged, pristine, mountainous forestland. Therefore, we are asking your subcommittee for a unanimous do-pass recommendation to the House of Representatives.

I would like to briefly add an additional comment regarding the need for wilderness in this region. Since The Ozark Society has learned to adopt the regional perspective, we have expanded our understanding of the relationship between the Interior Highlands area, that is, the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains, and surrounding urban and rural communities.

Mr. Chairman, the action taken by your subcommittee in recommending these areas for wilderness designation will be well received by the mid-America region. Everyone is aware that wilderness recreation use is growing quickly--as more wilderness areas are designated and as people begin to understand the delights of the wilderness experience.

In fact, the Forest Service recently published a fine summary of recreation use in the National Forests (Exhibit I.). That summary shows that wilderness use in the forests increased by 73% nationwide between 1972 and 1982, while overall recreational use grew by only 27% in this same period. This demonstrates

a remarkable trend, Mr. Chairman. People enjoy the wilderness, and they will make use of these areas in greater numbers as the years go by.

The Ozark Society recently examined a Forest Service model of future wilderness demand. We assumed that wilderness users within a 300-mile radius (the Forest Service uses 250 miles) would make use of Ozark and Ouachita Forest wilderness areas. Within this 300-mile zone, approximately 12.5 million people now live, which is likely to grow to about 17 million by the year 2000 (a 1.5%/yr. growth rate recommended by the Forest Service). Using the Forest Service model of visitor use ratios and area carrying capacity, we were able to estimate that over 250,000 acres of wilderness will be needed to satisfy the demands for this type of recreation by the year 2000. Congressman Bethune's bill would be of great assistance in helping to meet this demand.

This is our conclusion, Mr. Chairman: H.B. 2917 is needed to help satisfy current and future wilderness demand. There are no measurable disbenefits to counties, municipalities, commercial establishments or individuals from wilderness designation, but there will be many positive changes such as improved land values, increasing demand for recreational goods and services, improved opportunities for research and education, and other, less quantifiable benefits that follow the federal definitions of wilderness (i.e., opportunities for solitude, etc.). Arkansas serves as a focal point for wilderness advocacy since it contains the largest percentage of federal lands of any state between the Appalachians and the Rockies. This helps explain the intense interest of regional conservation organizations such as The Ozark Society. We hope you will see the merits of our arguments and feel the intensity of our appeal, and recommend the passage of H.B. 2917.

This ends my formal statement, Mr. Chairman. For the record I would like to submit additional written testimony for the subcommittee's consideration. Exhibits II. and III. of my testimony contain documents developed by the Arkansas Canoe Club and by Mr. Thomas McRae, of Little Rock, who could not be here today. Exhibit IV. of my testimony contains a letter submitted on behalf of Margaret Chapman, Mayor of the city of Mansfield, Arkansas. Ms. Chapman's letter demonstrates the interest of local communities in wilderness designation for such areas as Dry Creek and Belle Starr. This will hopefully demonstrate that state-wide support exists for wilderness, and that the Conservation Coalition has been active in working with local communities as well as urban centers in Arkansas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mary Smith
Conservation Co-Chairman
The Ozark Society

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE

RECREATION USE OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS

VISITS (THOUSANDS) CALENDAR YEAR 1924 - 1964							
CALENDAR YEAR	CAMPGROUNDS	WINTER SPORTS SITES	OTHER SPECIAL USE	OTHER DEVELOPED SITES	WILDERNESS/ "PRIMITIVE"	OTHER DISPERSED	TOTAL
1924	1,588.5	—	1,200.3	1,871.5	—	—	4,660.3
1925	2,130.0	—	1,405.5	2,086.7	—	—	5,622.2
1926	2,056.7	—	1,584.1	2,403.4	—	—	6,044.2
1927	1,845.7	—	1,667.5	2,423.6	—	—	6,136.8
1928	1,845.7	—	1,767.1	2,937.5	—	—	6,550.3
1929	1,903.0	—	1,777.8	3,056.5	—	—	7,137.3
1930	1,980.7	—	1,657.5	3,272.7	—	—	6,910.9
1931	2,193.9	—	2,115.0	3,765.0	—	—	8,073.9
1932	2,178.2	—	1,668.8	4,048.8	—	—	7,895.8
1933	2,219.8	—	1,589.8	4,555.9	—	—	8,165.5
1934	2,343.1	—	1,627.5	4,610.2	—	—	8,580.8
1935	2,395.7	—	1,996.6	5,326.0	—	—	9,718.3
1936	2,421.3	—	2,548.1	5,821.7	—	—	10,791.1
1937	2,836.0	—	3,022.7	5,973.9	—	—	11,832.6
1938	3,181.8	—	3,685.5	7,627.9	—	—	14,495.2
1939	3,257.5	1,289.2	2,866.0	7,019.2	—	—	14,331.9
1940	3,563.1	1,538.4	3,109.9	7,931.5	—	—	16,162.9
1941	3,349.9	1,519.1	2,763.2	8,829.0	87.1	4,466.6	18,004.9
1942	3,721.3	993.9	1,676.0	9,300.6	55.6	2,609.8	19,407.2
1943	1,095.2	366.8	1,039.4	2,050.8	43.2	1,779.6	6,274.6
1944	1,246.8	287.4	1,262.5	2,051.1	50.0	2,254.2	7,132.0
1945	1,614.9	327.3	2,053.5	2,729.4	74.5	2,874.5	10,074.1
1946	2,055.1	1,249.2	3,384.8	4,458.7	144.4	3,948.4	18,240.6
1947	2,518.1	1,725.7	2,869.0	5,262.6	194.1	7,661.3	21,330.8
1948	3,424.1	2,584.8	2,876.4	6,482.2	213.4	8,575.8	24,016.8
1949	3,837.0	1,712.6	2,931.1	7,659.2	243.6	9,696.7	26,080.2
1950	3,658.8	1,504.8	2,983.2	7,577.6	245.8	11,197.8	27,367.8
1951	4,140.9	1,929.3	3,248.2	8,669.3	312.4	11,650.1	29,950.2
1952	4,528.0	1,758.1	3,731.9	9,515.9	386.7	13,086.3	33,006.9
1953	4,810.3	1,944.2	3,920.2	10,335.9	468.2	15,403.0	35,463.0
1954	5,806.2	2,362.4	4,490.8	11,467.8	395.8	15,781.0	40,303.9
1955	6,796.7	2,977.2	4,749.6	12,418.3	462.1	18,308.9	45,712.8
1956	7,205.0	3,040.5	5,688.4	14,667.2	448.3	21,506.7	52,556.0
1957	8,352.4	3,158.7	5,709.5	16,138.5	534.6	27,063.8	60,957.5
1958	9,324.7	4,227.0	5,692.4	17,845.2	556.1	30,904.1	68,449.5
1959	9,555.8	4,184.1	6,223.8	19,283.7	564.7	41,309.3	81,351.0
1960	10,678.0	4,706.6	6,440.7	20,600.6	614.3	50,153.9	92,594.5
1961	11,835.1	4,476.3	7,235.3	20,456.8	756.7	57,150.3	101,912.5
1962	12,940.9	5,575.8	8,136.3	21,283.6	815.2	54,010.4	112,762.2
1963	13,562.5	6,677.6	7,306.8	21,575.4	937.1	72,522.6	122,582.0
1964	14,152.1	7,911.8	8,185.3	21,476.9	973.8	81,062.4	133,762.3

VISITOR-DAYS ^{1/} (THOUSANDS) CALENDAR 1965 - PRESENT

CALENDAR YEAR	CAMPGROUNDS	WINTER SPORTS SITES	OTHER SPECIAL USE	OTHER DEVELOPED SITES	WILDERNESS/ "PRIMITIVE"	OTHER DISPERSED	TOTAL
1965	34,040.0	5,481.6	19,914.0	9,433.0	4,322.1	84,350.9	160,336.1
1966	32,664.1	4,842.6	18,186.1	9,182.2 (15%)	4,790.7 1%	82,063.2	150,728.9
1967	30,230.7	5,102.3	17,662.3	7,879.5 (4%)	4,690.1 (2%)	84,082.2	149,647.1
1968	30,665.1	5,544.0	18,300.3	7,742.5 (2%)	5,056.2 7%	89,137.2	156,665.3
1969	31,669.6	5,661.8	18,286.7	8,222.2 7%	5,071.9 0	94,025.9	162,838.1
1970	34,562.3	6,478.8	17,716.9	8,897.2 1%	5,842.8 15%	99,056.5	172,554.5
1971	35,731.7	6,961.7	17,572.5	9,396.3 1%	6,103.6 16%	100,343.7	178,109.5
1972	36,079.5	6,320.6	17,442.8	9,590.2 1%	6,439.4 (15%)	107,865.8	183,958.3
1973	35,965.2	6,280.0	16,681.0	9,764.1 1%	6,681.7 1%	110,792.6	188,174.6
1974	35,677.9	7,722.0	17,103.4	9,435.0 (3%)	6,743.2 1%	116,214.3	192,915.8
1975	37,721.2	8,921.3	17,640.9	10,781.5 1%	7,802.0 14%	116,333.9	199,200.8
1976	37,134.9	7,143.7	17,395.4	11,458.9 6%	7,105.6 (16%)	119,689.6	199,928.1
1977	37,554.3	6,970.3	16,946.4	12,305.0 7%	8,008.3 17%	123,013.1	204,797.4
1978	39,606.9	10,601.0	16,710.5	12,712.3 1%	8,619.9 1%	130,243.9	218,494.3
1979	39,085.2	12,839.7	17,201.1	12,735.3 0	9,604.9 11%	128,699.4	220,165.6
1980	40,276.2	13,349.7	17,444.5	14,341.1 15%	9,267.8 14%	136,670.0	233,349.3
1981	41,227.6	10,590.6	17,083.3	15,980.4 17%	11,416.8 11%	139,410.6	235,709.2
1982	38,792.9	12,343.9	17,281.4	14,909.0 (17%)	11,158.3 (2%)	137,951.2	233,437.9

^{1/} Recreational use of National Forest land and water which aggregates 12 person-hours. May entail 1 person for 12 hours, 12 persons for 1 hour, or any equivalent combination of individual or group use, either continuous or intermittent.

1969-71 = 35%

1971-73 = 1%

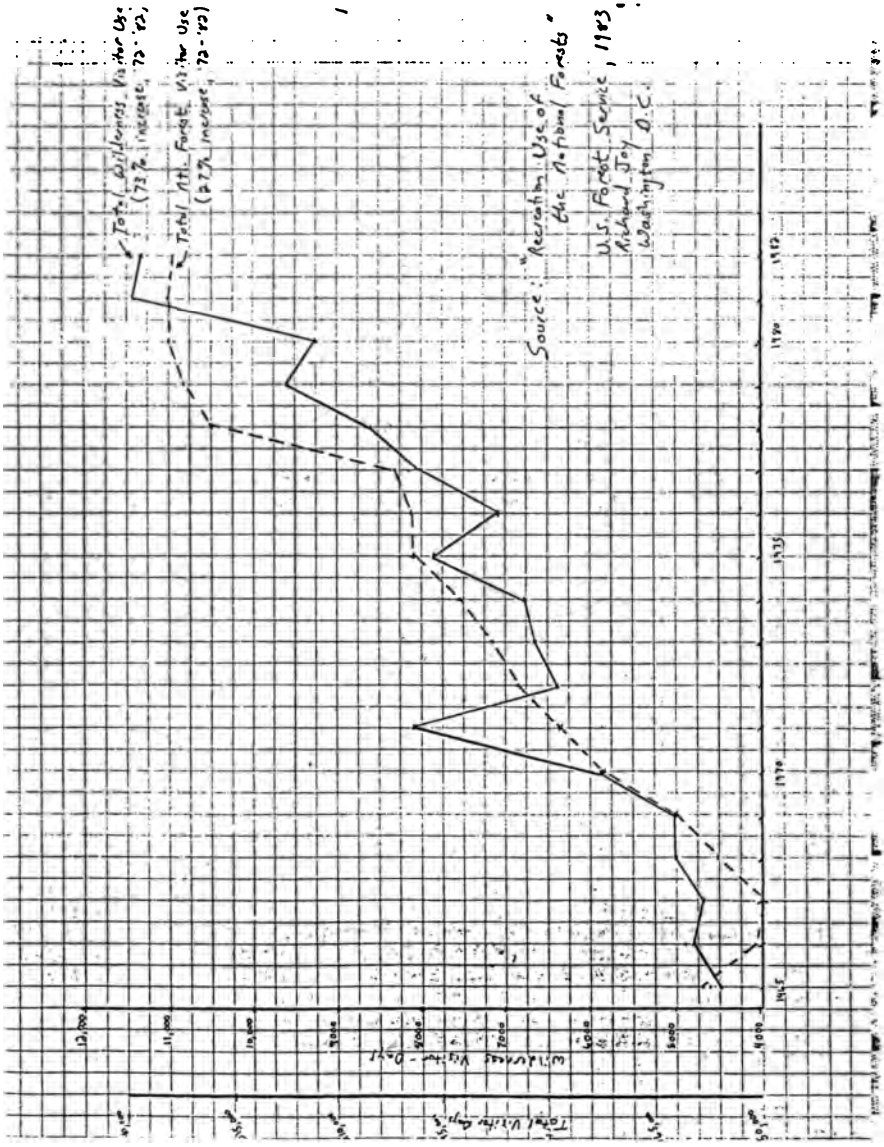
1973-75 = 0%

1969-71 = 17% ↑

1971-73 = 20%

1973-75 = 20%

1975-77 = 73% ↑



City Of Mansfield

Incorporated August 29, 1888

P.O. Box 476

MANSFIELD, ARKANSAS 72944

June 1, 1982

John V. Orr
Forest Supervisor
Ouachita National Forest
P. O. Box 1270
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

RE: Comments relative to
Belle Starr Wilderness
Study Area and Rare II
Additions Report with
reference to Dry Creek
Wilderness Study Report

Dear Mr. Orr:

Pursuant to the informal meeting, which you were kind enough to schedule and hold for us with our State Representative, area representatives and the undersigned, may I reiterate our discussion at subject meeting and take this opportunity to formally submit the following comments and proposed "Compromise Agreement".

With reference to the Public Hearing, held in Booneville on May 4, 1982, you will recall that several of our area people; our State Representative and I testified in favor of the Forest Service recommendation of the "no action alternative".

Please know that we listened very attentively to the testimony of the many affected adjacent landowners testifying against wilderness designation and to the testimony of the representatives from the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society testifying in favor of wilderness designation.

Following the public hearing, some of our area people and I had the opportunity to discuss, with various representatives of the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society, our different opinions re wilderness versus non-wilderness. To quote the young man that I spoke with, "we are basically after the same goals". I could not and do not disagree with that. I believe that my testimony, prepared and presented in behalf of my area people, reflects that we favor the preservation of Poteau Mountain in its natural state. Only wishing to reserve our present usage which is minimal, self maintaining and non-destructive.

June 1, 1982

John V. Orr
Forest Supervisor
Ouachita National Forest

RE: Comments
Belle Starr & Dry Creek
Wilderness Study

As a result of these individual and various discussions, arrangements were made for representatives of the Sierra Club and National Audubon Society to take a trip to Poteau Mountain with some of our area people to further discuss, on the site, our mutual desires and/or differences.

Following that trip and discussions, which lasted over the entire weekend, and with some contacts having been made to affected adjacent landowners in the Booneville area, we have reason to believe that there is a definite possibility that a "Compromise Agreement" can be worked out with subject representatives that would benefit our people; the adjacent landowners; Sierra Club; National Audubon Society and the Forest Service.

We believe and sincerely hope that our Congress would favor a compromise that results in at least partial satisfaction to all concerned.

In short, our proposed "Compromise Agreement" would read as follows:

" The area to be hereafter referred to as POTEAU MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS and SPECIAL SCENIC AREA and include the following modifications:

1. The lands West of Rock Creek Road and East of Kings Creek Road to be designated as "Wilderness Area".
2. The lands situated between Rock Creek Road and Kings Creek Road be designated as "Special Scenic Area" with Rock Creek Road and Kings Creek Road to serve as boundaries and to be self-maintained as they are now with said boundary roads allowing access to both Wilderness Areas designated in Item 1.
3. That said Wilderness Areas specified in Item 1 commence approximately twenty-five feet (25') from the center of said boundary roads to enable those users of Special Scenic Area to park off the road without being in violation of vehicles in wilderness areas.
4. Wilderness designation as specified in Item 1 to be under the 1964 Wilderness Act thereby prohibiting condemnation and/or control of surrounding and/or adjoining private lands.

5. If subject to Wilderness Act of 1964, as specified in Item 4, we support the views of the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society in designating Dry Creek as Wilderness Area.
6. As stated in previous testimony, any Water Shed Project would be endorsed and strongly supported assuming that if such a project were to be undertaken that would necessitate cutting off either of the aforementioned boundary roads, that a new road, allowing vehicle access to Special Scenic Area, would be cut by the project.
7. The road that goes across the top of Poteau Mountain, although not within the Wilderness Study Area, be reopened, repaired and maintained thereby allowing the citizens and visitors of Arkansas the opportunity to view and enjoy the beauty of what we hope Congress will vote to preserve for our future generations.

Attached please find maps outlining the area we respectfully propose be called the POTEAU MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS and SPECIAL SCENIC AREAS.

You will note said outlined maps contain approximately 15,000 acres of Wilderness Area and approximately 3,220 acres of Special Scenic Area.

Please be advised that this letter is being hand delivered to representatives of the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society for their endorsement prior to their forwarding same to your office.

It is our sincere belief that your favorable consideration and presentation of this proposal to Congress will redound to the benefit of all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Margaret Chapman

A. Margaret Chapman
Mayor, City of Mansfield

cc: The Honorable
Congressman Hammerschmidt
Senator Pryor
Senator Bumpers
Representative Rice
files

"Hearings on Arkansas Additions
to the National Wilderness Preservation System"

May 26, 1983

My name is Paul Means and I am testifying in my capacity as Conservation Chairman of the Arkansas Canoe Club, a group of over 300 family memberships. The Arkansas Canoe Club membership is statewide and our members actively engage in canoeing and backpacking. In addition, the Club has a commitment to the conservation and wise use of the natural and scenic resources of Arkansas. On behalf of the membership of the Arkansas Canoe Club, I would like to make the following comments on HB 2917 introduced by Mr. Bethune.

Wilderness is part of our American heritage because it is America as our forefathers found it. Wilderness is the home of Daniel Boone, Kit Carson, and the Ozark hill people. There is something peculiar about Americans in that they like to save reminders of their past. Our country has uncountable parks, memorials, and mementos of our past, ranging from the Declaration of Independence to Mount Vernon to Yellowstone National Park. If one can recall the enthusiasm during the Bicentennial Celebration, then he can appreciate our pride in our heritage. Wilderness areas are simply another part of our heritage, a place where a father can take his son and say this is what your great grandfather saw when he came to Arkansas. Contrary to popular myth, this is not an attitude of just urban dwellers.

Each year the Arkansas Canoe Club holds a canoe school, and people come not just from Little Rock, but from communities such as Dover, Hector, Camden, Arkadelphia, and Bentonville. These are the same people that visit wilderness areas. Wilderness areas are popular for hunting and in the summer, wading down streams and fishing. To local residents, these areas are familiar and often used. The interest in Arkansas wilderness is widespread and includes all types of people.

Perhaps because of problems with large areas in western states or because of misinformed notions, there are a vocal few opposed to wilderness. Arguments have been raised that wilderness will cut school funding, cause unemployment,

and condemn private land. Your committee has heard these arguments before, and the evidence is clear that these allegations are simply false. The eleven areas proposed in HB 2917 are too rugged to be of value for timber and the mineral resources are insignificant. This is the very reason they remain in a natural, undeveloped state in 1983. Designation of these areas as wilderness can have a very positive impact. Tourism is an important industry in Arkansas and the existence of these wilderness areas will certainly promote Arkansas as "the Natural State" and enhance tourism. Rather than provide you with an analysis of the issues that has already been made in other testimony, I would like to relate a personal experience.

I attended a public hearing in Deer, Arkansas on the proposed Richland Creek Wilderness area. There were several hundred people present, most of which who were strongly opposed to wilderness. Like most hearings, there were numerous emotional statements and strong feelings. After the meeting, I joined in a conversation with several of those who had spoken against wilderness. They had a fear that private land would be condemned, which of course is incorrect. At the same time, these gentlemen appreciated the wilderness quality of the Richland Creek area. One of them said, "I like Richland Creek just the way it is, why doesn't the Forest Service just keep it that way." That is exactly what a wilderness designation will do.

The Arkansas Canoe Club feels that each of the eleven proposed areas has the qualities of wilderness and that in total they represent a reasonable portion of national forest land to leave in a natural state. Wilderness designation will have no realistic negative impacts and a host of positive benefits. Designation of these areas as wilderness will be something that future Arkansans can speak of with pride.

We in the Arkansas Canoe Club strongly urge you to give HB 2917 a unanimous do pass recommendation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

"Hearings on Arkansas Additions
to the National Wilderness Preservation System"

May 26, 1983

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Congressmen and guests, my name is Thomas McRae from Little Rock, Arkansas. I am here today on behalf of myself to speak in support of the comprehensive wilderness package presented to the House by Congressman Ed Bethune (House Bill 2917) of Arkansas' Second District.

As a native Arkansan and as President of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation in Little Rock, I can say that the designation of approximately 135,000 acres of publicly-owned land in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests would provide significant benefits to the state as a whole. Wilderness benefits are sometimes difficult to quantify, but my examination of the issues and possibilities associated with wilderness options shows me that substantial psychological, recreational, educational and even economic benefits will be seen by the citizens of Arkansas as a result of House adoption of H.B. 2917. Conversely, the negative factors for Arkansans from adoption of H.B. 2917 are minimal.

The primary issues against wilderness designation have to do with land-owner questions about the ownership and management of inholdings or privately-owned perimeter lands once wilderness designation is made in the National Forests. I know that your subcommittee has heard these concerns in the past, and I know you have an interest in protecting private interests whenever possible. Such was the intent of Congress in 1964 when it passed the Wilderness Act, as evidenced in the language of the Act that disallows condemnation of private lands within the interior of wilderness acreage. In Arkansas, landowner fears have been fed by misinformation on this issue, and this is a difficult thing to correct once initial impressions are formed. Nevertheless, pro-wilderness groups and individuals in Arkansas have been working extensively to provide factual information on this and other wilderness issues in our state. For example, members of the Arkansas Conservation Coalition were successful in reaching a compromise solution with land owners near the Belle Starr area in western Arkansas. Likewise, the East Fork area residents have been discussing

boundary redefinitions to allow for improved Forest Service management of that area and to answer landowner concerns about cemeteries, inholdings, and vehicle traffic. In the Leatherwood area, the coalition has been in touch with private landowners to explain concerns about property rights and condemnation. The coalition is committed to working with local residents around the state in seeing this comprehensive package of eleven, small wilderness areas adopted in Congress. It cannot be expected that each and every question will be answered, or that every negative opinion will be turned around, but this is true of a great number of possible wilderness opponents. Arkansans will readily accept the larger package offered by Congressman Bethune.

Another concern being expressed by opponents has to do with the economic impacts of wilderness designation. However, this issue has been extensively studied by professional resource managers, including the local Forest Service, local conservation organizations, national conservation groups, Congressional staff and others. So far as I am aware, none of these groups has been able to identify significant revenue losses to either Arkansas counties, municipalities, commercial enterprizes or individual citizens as a result of wilderness designation in our two forests. The reason that this is true is straightforward: the amount of land being proposed for wilderness designation is too small to account for any measurable losses. The proposal developed by Congressman Bethune considers only 6% of the public land in the Ozark and Ouachita forests. (In many cases this is rugged land unsuited for logging or timber management.) This is a tiny amount. As far back as 1978, the Forest Service in Arkansas had concluded that economic impacts from placing 185,000 acres of land in wilderness (50,000 acres more than is proposed by Congressman Bethune)"...would result in no significant change in employment in any impact area. All the calculated changes in employment were less than one percent..." (RARE II DEIS, June 1978, pg. 32). Similar conclusions were given for general economic and social impacts. These conclusions are equally valid today.

There are significant positive changes to be considered along with comprehensive wilderness designation. Privately-owned wilderness lands are in strong demand since they can provide "backcountry" cabin sites for people interested

in the wilderness setting—either to live within or for vacations. For example, recent sales of private lands inside the proposed Richland Creek and Hurricane Creek areas resulted in premium prices being paid by the new owners just for the privilege of owning "wilderness acreage". It is my belief that this same development would be true for anyone interested in selling their inholdings or perimeter lands. Demand for this type of setting will result in increased land values. This speaks well for the positive attitude that accompanies wilderness designation.

Other benefits are derived from the sale of services and goods associated with wilderness recreation itself, and these benefits are spread out over the entire state. For example, the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism recently estimated that \$6.5 million is spent annually in Arkansas on wilderness-related goods and services. They expect this figure to grow to \$10 million by 1985, and to \$20 million by 1990. If new wilderness areas are designated, these are definite positive impacts which I hope will be of interest to subcommittee members.

Less quantifiable but no less real are the educational and psychological benefits to Arkansans from the addition of 135,000 acres to the wilderness system. I don't wish to elaborate on these items for I know that your subcommittee has already become familiar with the idea of wilderness as an important living laboratory, and as a haven from the pressures and strains of twentieth-century living. I will say instead that these laboratories, these small, undeveloped retreats, will become even more important with the passage of time. By the year 2000, these lands will be priceless commodities for they will likely be totally unique "islands", surrounded by lands intensely managed for their natural resource potential. These few wildlands will harbor and protect animal and plant communities, and will provide great educational and recreational opportunities or other special challenges for our children to consider. Wilderness will be our greatest legacy to the twenty-first century.

And if these lands are not designated as wilderness, they will carry their wild character for only a little while longer. New roads will appear, timber

ill be felled. There will be planned burns, herbicide treatments, erosion, loss of wildlife and plant diversity--these lands will no longer be wild. What we are asking Congress to consider for wilderness designation today are the last remnants of frontier lands that once covered the entire region. A proposal to designate 6% of our national forest land as wilderness, with substantial positive results to the state, is a reasonable one, Mr. Chairman. I ask the subcommittee to recommend H.B. 2917 to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Thomas McRae
Little Rock

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2917

BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

ON FORESTRY

May 26, 1983

The National Wildlife Federation strongly supports passage of H.R. 2917, "A Bill to Designate Certain Public Lands in North Central, Northwestern, and Western Arkansas as Additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System." Founded in 1936, the Federation is the nation's largest conservation education organization. Our membership, comprised of individual associate members and 51 affiliate organizations, totals 4.2 million members and supporters. The Federation has long recognized the need to set aside some of the remaining remnants of our wilderness heritage for both our own use and that of future generations.

As our Arkansas affiliate, the Arkansas Wildlife Federation, has pointed out, the acreage proposed to be protected as wilderness in H.R. 2917, when combined with existing wilderness areas, would amount to less than 6% of Arkansas' national forest land. It would be less than two-thirds of one percent of the total acreage of Arkansas. Surely such a miniscule proportion of the once vast mixed deciduous forests which stretched over hundreds of miles of the Ozark Plateau deserves to be set aside as a reminder to future generations of America's natural resource heritage.

The Arkansas Wildlife Federation, through the Arkansas Conservation Coalition, has worked long and hard to preserve these 11 additional areas in their natural state. We urge the Subcommittee and Congress to pass H.R. 2917, and thereby add these important lands to our national wilderness system.

TELEPHONES
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208

AN ENDCRSEMENT OF WILDERNESS AREAS

In the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests

It is requested that the following comment be entered in the record as favoring the enactment of H R 2917 to create wilderness areas in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests, or to study the same for that purpose, as submitted by the Hon. Ed Lethune of the second district of Arkansas.

At the end of the Civil War there existed across much of the Ozark-Ouachita uplands and especially along the crest of the Jostain Mountains the finest stand of temperate zone hardwood in the world. It was not long to be neglected. Railroads were built back into the mountain fastness to tap the resource, fortunes were made and the cut over land left to recover with little thanks to the next generation.

At the turn of the century far sighted individuals like president Theodore Roosevelt instigated the creation of our national forests and the agency to supervise them. These forests were to be kept as a reserve to be drawn upon in times of national stress as one would draw interest from a bank deposit if need arose. It was not intended that the principal be compromised. The National Forest Service has performed much as intended until the last few decades.

Just before the second World War there existed in the Ozark-Ouachita National Forests a few fragments of that magnificent original woodland. For instance, on White Oak Mountain there were five thousand acres of virgin white oak forest and along the road up to the overlook on White Rock the original giant white oaks formed a high arcade over the unobtrusive mountain road. It was a place that would be dreamed about by this writer during long months on Guadalcanal with the sincere hope to return to see it all again. When that day came, what greeted the eye along that road was the clutter and jumble of downed tops of the old trees left haphazardly to rot away over the next twenty or thirty years. The Forest Service, after the emergency of war was over, had sold to loggers who thereby garnered a few dollars for themselves at the expanse of the rest of us whose interest in the use of that public land was just as authentic and legal as theirs. There was enough debate over what to do with the more extensive tract on White Oak Mountain to cause some comment in the press but there was no one to stand up for the preservation of a single acre of it, most regrettably not the National Forest Service itself. It was cut en toto.

In all the long history of the utilization of our forest lands, either under private or public management, no long term workable program has been put into effect to preserve and study selected segments of it. We urgently need to know the best native species for forest cover (and for man's use) to be encouraged here in the Ozarks and Ouachitas. The creation of wilderness areas under the wilderness bill now under consideration by Congress is a step in that direction. Otherwise our National Forest Service, losing sight of their mission as custodians of an original natural resource, will become agents for the big lumber companies who seek to convert everything to pine because of its fast growth. Thus we have seen the Forest Service apply 2-4-5-T to kill the hardwood so pine will take over, or to bulldoze off Turner Ward Knob to plant it all in pine, or to sell and clear-cut wide areas for a quick monetary return and to establish a pine plantation on the site. Thus they have become competitors of Weyerhaeuser or perhaps partners, depending on how you look at it.

It is not what Teddy Roosevelt had in mind.

Neil Compton
Neil Compton

May 26, 1983

Subcommittee Hearings on
Arkansas Wilderness Bills
U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Chairman
Members of the Committee:

My name is Lissa Thompson. I am a native Arkansan and have been a resident of the state for 31 years. I am here today to testify in support of H.B. 2917, on behalf of the Arkansans who benefit, not only from the direct pleasures inspired by our state's natural heritage, but also from the economic advantages tied to our one legitimate resource.

Our natural beauty and associated recreational opportunities help attract new industry and business. An executive location study was prepared by an independent research firm, Market Facts, Inc. of Chicago, for the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission (AIDC). Executives with top Fortune 500 companies perceived as real "pluses" for the state its Recreational Opportunities, ranking as the number one positive attribute, and the Scenic Character of the State, ranking number three, in their overall opinion. The AIDC continues to tout prospective businesses with these offerings, and it is this above average quality of life that keeps bright, productive people in our state.

Arkansas' scenic wonders and recreational opportunities are also what attract tourists. The promotional slogan for the State Department of Parks and Tourism is "Arkansas is a Natural". Their current data shows that tourism is a 1.6 billion dollar a year industry, providing employment for 46 thousand people and paying 314 million dollars in wages and salaries. The Department says, for 1982, a conservative estimate for specific wilderness-related expenditures would be 6.45 million dollars.

The U.S. Forest Service reports show wilderness use is increasing at 4% per year nation wide, having increased 72% in the last decade, compared with a 27% increase in other recreational uses. The National Forest land in Arkansas provides wilderness experience for a region. It is especially common to encounter people from the neighboring states of Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee and Louisiana, when in Arkansas' wilderness areas. We are in a fortunate position. We have the resource to meet the demand and we can profit by doing so, as a result.

Arkansas' undisturbed natural areas provide opportunities for a growing number of its citizens who participate in a wide variety of recreational and wildlife-associated activities. In its 1980 Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior states that such activities appeal to all kinds of people - black, white, male, female, urban and rural. Expenditures from wildlife associated activities make up a significant part of the American economy. In addition to impressive figures given on numbers engaged in hunting and fishing and the related expenditures, recognition is given to the "non-consumptive use of wildlife. 1, 040,000 Arkansans participate, away from their homes, in observing or photographing game and non-game animals.

The state's Official Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), mentions the need for continued availability of areas in which our state's people can enjoy these activities, as they deserve. Aimed at serving a variety of interests, in which wilderness is a vital element, the plan urges state and federal agencies in Arkansas to provide for wilderness activities and to protect biological diversity.

The designation of ^{138,000} acres of wilderness to meet the needs in Arkansas is a reasonable proposal. Such action is consistent with the Multiple Use -

Sustained Yield Act and the National Forest Management Act. Conserving less than 6% of the National Forest in Arkansas helps provide for more than one purpose. It would meet the mandated management objectives for the various multiple uses, including recreation, watershed, fish and wildlife protection, and plant diversity. Leaving access to the remaining 94% can surely meet the singular goal of commodity use. We are not asking that any land be removed from current production.

We hope our requests regarding the use of our public land will be included in making the final decision. We have accepted our responsibility as participants, donating extensive personal time and money to the effort to ensure a thorough review. Our research suggests that wilderness designation for all eleven areas as outlined in the Arkansas Citizen's Wilderness Proposal, would be beneficial economically, as well as ecologically.

The Proposal has broad-based support from all types of individuals, interest groups and state agencies, many of whom were directly involved in the study. It carries the unanimous endorsement of the Arkansas Conservation Coalition's nine member groups, which include such diverse organizations as the League of Women Voters, The Wildlife Federation, and the Audubon Society and which represents a membership of over 10,000, Republicans and Democrats. What we have in common is a concern for the proper management of our public lands and an awareness of the importance of conserving some of the last vestiges of Arkansas Natural Heritage. Significant wilderness designation today is a wise investment for tomorrow.

Respectfully,
Jessie Thompson

Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to come before your sub-committee to speak in favor of house bill #2917, proposing wilderness status for eleven beautiful areas in Arkansas.

My name is Chris Tullgren, I am 38 years old, am married, and have four children. I live in Mountain Home, Arkansas, where I have resided for over 30 years. I own and operate an insurance agency there.

Mountain Home is a small town of about 8,000 population in northern Arkansas that is very tourist oriented. We have two beautiful U. S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes nearby, and two beautiful rivers, one being the free flowing Buffalo National River. All four of these attractions lend themselves to outdoor activities such as hunting, boating, fishing and camping, but not to the solitude that can be found in an undisturbed wilderness area.

About 25 miles south of Mountain Home, in the Sylamore Ranger District of the Ozark National Forest, is the proposed "Leatherwood Wilderness Area." While I have visited and enjoyed several of the other proposed wilderness areas in Arkansas, and know how badly we need to protect the entire package of all these natural areas, I have come today primarily to tell you about Leatherwood.

For over five years my wife and I have camped, hiked, driven and just generally explored virtually every portion of the proposed Leatherwood wilderness area. We have experienced the beauty and ruggedness of the land, observed the clear clean streams and springs, and marveled at the wide variety of vegetation.

The Leatherwood area is very accessible. It is bordered almost totally on the North, the East, and the South by improved Forest Service roads. Its western border is made up of over 4 1/2 miles of the Buffalo National River. Leatherwood totals over 15,000 acres of land in Baxter, Marion, and Searcy counties. It is the farthest North, and the farthest East of all eleven of the proposed wilderness areas. For this reason, it would be used and enjoyed by many of the residents of southern Missouri, eastern Arkansas, and the Memphis, Tennessee area, all of whom heavily use our local lakes and rivers.

This area contains the entire watershed of both Leatherwood Creek and Middle Creek. These creeks have numerous waterfalls, rock ledges, and springs and flow down steep, narrow, rugged valleys, westward to the Buffalo National River. As in most of the Ozarks, there is a wide variety of wild flowers, the forest is predominately deciduous, with some pine mixed in. The older, larger trees are in the deep valleys where accessibility by motor vehicle is impossible. Leatherwood also contains a large variety of native Ozark animals. Deer, turkey, fox, bobcat, coyotes, mink, beaver, squirrel, and rabbit are known to be present and Black bear and American cougar are suspected.

The commercial value of the timber and minerals in Leatherwood is minimal. Yet in the past 2 years there have been several very small timber cuts in the northern third of the area around the edges and if allowed to continue, this could ruin the beauty of the watershed of Leatherwood Creek.

While I have been visiting primitive areas and participating in the quiet forms of outdoor recreation for years, I have never really spoken out or voiced my opinions to the public before. Earlier this month I wrote a letter to the Editor of my local newspaper to explain the reasons for and some of the mechanics

of current wilderness legislation. Since then almost everywhere I go, someone offers their support. It is becoming very apparent to me that once people fully understand what is involved in wilderness designation they will overwhelmingly support it. Even people that have never ventured out of the city.

Wilderness designation of this area, as well as the other ten areas in Arkansas, will provide needed primitive recreation, but most of all, it will protect one of our most valuable natural resources for present and future generations.

I strongly urge you to support this legislation and offer an invitation to you for a personal tour of Leatherwood or any of the other ten areas in Arkansas.

Chris Tullgren
1712 Van Buren
Mountain Home, AR 72653
501-425-2694 Residence
501-425-3757 Office

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, it is with great pleasure that I submit this written testimony in favor of H.R. 2917, the Arkansas Wilderness Bill. My name is Tom McKinney. I am a lifelong resident of Arkansas and lived in the Northwest Arkansas town of Fayetteville most of my life. I have spent countless thousands of hours of my life exploring and enjoying the National Forests of Arkansas and floating its numerous fine streams and rivers. It is because of my love of the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests that I have driven to Washington D.C. to testify at this Committee hearing.

I would like to endorse Congressman Ed Bethune's bill to establish eleven wilderness areas in Arkansas. I am doing so for the following reasons.

I come from one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the South. The influx of people has put a strain on the recreational facilities of the area. There are presently two wilderness areas now existing in the two national forests and the Buffalo National River also. These three areas are already showing signs of overuse due to their popularity with both Arkansas people and from visitors from other states. These eleven new wilderness areas would help disperse the use of this type of recreation and keep any one area from being adversely impacted.

Tourism in Arkansas is the third largest business and brings in millions of dollars each year. Already thousands of people, some from as far away as Illinois and Mississippi, come to Arkansas specifically to float the Buffalo National River and other streams. The same will be true for the wilderness areas established under H.R. 2917. It is keeping with the theme of Arkansas is a Natural. A good system of wilderness areas as set up by H.R. 2917 could bring in millions of dollars each year in increased tourist income to the communities and businesses near the areas.

Much of the opposition to the establishment of wilderness has come from the misconception of the law setting them up. There has been widespread belief among the local people in the National Forest that their land would be condemned and taken from them if they were included in or on the boundaries of a wilderness area. In fact the 964 Wilderness Act strictly prohibits such condemnation of private property and actually cancels the power of the Forest Service to exercise their condemnation power within the boundaries of the wilderness area.

Ironically a persons property is, in fact, safer from condemnation within the boundaries of a wilderness area than if it were just within the boundaries of the National Forest.

There has been stories spread, also, that a person will have restrictions placed on the use of their property if they are within or on the boundaries of a wilderness area. Again that is

totally false. Land owners within the boundaries of a wilderness area area also guaranteed access to their property.

I own 60 acres within the Hurrican Creek Wilderness Study Area and if any party should be concerned about condemnation, restriction of use, or reasonable access then it would be me. However, I am not concerned in the east because I know that I am protected by law.

The loss of tax revenue to the county schools who recieve turnback payments from the National Forest has also been brought up as a problem. IF I thought that any school district would lose even one dollar of tax revenue from the 25% turnback payments then I would not support this bill. The land in question is low in timber yield potential and extremely rugged. This would raise the cost of bulldozing roads into the area to be cut and could even bring about some deficit sales. With only 6% of the Ozark and Onachita National Forests included in this bill the timber industry loss and subsequent tax loss would be insignificant.

Actually, both National Forests can easily make up any loss of timber production by applying it to the rest of the forest. Both forests have a large cushion of uncut timber to draw upon due to the Multiple Use, Sustained Yield Act of 1960. They would not automatically lower their actual yield if these areas were designated as wilderness.

In closing I would like to add that if any effect is felt on local property due to the establishment of these eleven areas it would be to actually increase the value of their property. I paid above market valued for the 60 acres I bought because of its locale. The same will be true for property owners in or near these areas.

I feel strongly about the need for more wilderness in Arkansas. Any wrong decisions now cannot be corrected in the future. We need to leave a legacy for our children and give them the opportunity to explore and experience the wild Arkansas forests just as their ancestors did over 100 years ago.

Thank you,

Tom McKinney

201 Seward Street
Silvan Springs, Arkansas
May 21, 1983

Most Respected Members of Congress,

It is with great regret that I am unable to attend this committee hearing regarding the establishment of wilderness areas in the beautiful state of Arkansas. However, with Mr. Tom McKinney's gracious help, it is hoped that this statement in favor of Representative Ed Bethune's proposal will serve the purpose sufficiently.

At the outset let me qualify my credentials for this testimony. Other than a deep seated love for both my state and the natural heritage of this nation, I have none. I serve as a civics and government teacher at Gentry High School in northwest Arkansas. For the past four summers I have used the summer months to journey through the national public lands in both the United States and Canada. Currently, my wife and I are involved in another "wilderness summer excursion," which is why I have sent this letter to you distinguished gentlemen rather than appearing in person.

Arkansas is a land of competing interests. Where there is beauty there is often money to be made by exploiting it and my home state is no different from many of the other states I have visited. One question remains supreme--who is to pass judgement over the destiny of large tracts of public lands? Too often, lines are drawn between opposing sides and names such as "environmentalist" or "industrialist" are thrown about as a means of discrediting those who favor one side over another. I sincerely hope no labels are applied to me as I

speaking in favor of preserving our state's lands for those children who have yet to set foot on this earth.

We need more wilderness areas in Arkansas to provide for the recreation of large numbers of people like my wife and me who enjoy the isolation of unspoiled nature. One of the reasons I have left the state each summer for the last four years is to pursue wilderness experiences through backpacking, wildflower photography, and wildlife observation. Other states enjoy huge wilderness and/or national park areas where people throughout the nation come for the same reasons I have mentioned above. Arkansas has the potential to provide a valuable treasure of wilderness for tomorrow's children if we are brave enough today to set aside these meager land holdings. In the total spectrum of public lands in the state which would be lost to development (i.e., timber cutting and mining concerns), these 11 areas up for designation as wilderness are a mere pittance when compared to those lands available for private industrial use.

What will we say to the children of the future when they ask why we did not take this time to save some land for them so that they could enjoy the same privileges that we have had? If they cut down every last tree tomorrow and strip mine each mountain in this country into nothing more than mudholes, we have had the opportunity in our lifetimes to have seen them. But what about our children? Should they not have the right to enjoy the same freedoms and

exhilarations that we have had in the wilds when they grow to be our age? Congressmen, we are making a decision on this matter which will say to those who follow that we either did or did not care about their environmental well-being. I sincerely hope that years from now I can say to my children that we took the time today to save something special just for them, as our forefathers did for us many years before our time.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Burton Roberts Jr

Walter Burton Roberts, Jr.

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 SUBAL ROUTE TWO
 GRAVETTE, ARKANSAS 72736

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 P. O. BOX 186
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ARTHUR F. EVANS, D.D.S.
 GENERAL PRACTITIONER OF DENTISTRY

Sir:

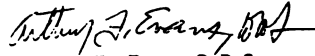
I speak to the issue of wilderness in Arkansas. In the past and eventhrough the 1920's our state was richly blessed with vast forests both bottomland and upland, huge and ancient. But, alas, with religious zeal and pioneer wastefulness my grandfathers turned the seemingly limitless resource into poor, rocky, hill farms. The primeval bottomland forests are gone forever, replaced by soybeans for Japan and rice for Budweiser. In these latter days I seldom have opportunity to speak well of the U.S. Forest Service except for the fact that during the 30's and 40's they did establish the Ozark-St. Francis and the Ouachita National Forests. With their protection and reforestation life has come back to a ravaged and desolate land. Not as grand as it was, but improving right along. Our sons no longer have to depend on the fantasy of James Fenimore Cooper to picture a wild turkey. The bears are back; the cougars are back; the ruffed grouse are back. In the more remote and not recently devastated areas many species which need undisturbed old-growth forest are coming back. I am delighted and I assure you that the vast majority of the citizens of Arkansas are as well. Tourism is our second most important industry, after agriculture. Unfortunately the most recent generation of U.S.F.S. foresters sees the

public trust as a tree farm and prefers to ignore their multiple-use mandate. Even more unfortunately, my congressman, John Paul Hammerschmidt, a very conservative Republican, has very little sympathy for any environmental cause. What can you say for the stewardship of a man who earned a zero percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters for two out of the last five years? We need to protect a few of our best representative examples of older Ozark and Ouachita ecosystems as wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. The Arkansas Conservation Coalition proposes 11 areas within the two National Forests, which when added to existing designated wilderness areas still totals a scant 6% of Federal Land in Arkansas. Gentlemen, this isn't much, but we have precious little left which qualifies for designation even under Eastern wilderness criteria.

There is another good reason to consider my appeal for your help. I speak as a part-owner of a small parcel of land within the Hurricane Creek Proposed Wilderness Area. The previous owner offered the land to the U.S.F.S. at market value but was refused. We bought it as a recreational retreat offering exceptional scenery, solitude, and the opportunity to restore an ancient log cabin. Our management goals are quite limited and always guided by the determination that our activities be in harmony with the surrounding wilderness. Our wildlife food plots are presently attracting many deer, quail, turkeys, and song-

birds. We do not plan to exercise our right to hunt either on our land or in the adjacent wilderness area. We do not fear the designation of a wilderness area around us as do some people. We are assured that our place will be "cherry-stemmed" out, with traditional access unimpeded. Mr. James Crouch, the Ozark-St. Francis N.P. supervisor, advises us we will have keys to the gate which they will erect where our access road enters the wilderness area. Where is the conflict? I'm sure other inholders will be treated as fairly.

So won't you please help Arkansas and Congressman Ed Bethune save these eleven relatively undamaged and rapidly recovering wilderness areas? If so then future generations may again walk under giant white oaks and marvel at the grand opulence of Nature left to her own devices, not in some distant National Park, but right here at home.


Arthur W. Evans D.D.S.

STATEMENT OF ED PEMBLETON

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am Ed Pembleton, Regional Representative for the National Audubon Society's West Central Region, which includes Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. I have a written statement to submit for the record, which I would like to submit at this time.

I appreciate having this opportunity to appear today on behalf of our Arkansas membership, which includes over 2500 members organized in seven chapters and six affiliates including one statewide affiliate known as the Arkansas Audubon Society. Before I moved to the Audubon regional office in Manhattan, Kansas I was a resident of Ferndale, Arkansas, which is near the proposed Flatside Wilderness area.

Today I am here to speak in favor of Congressman Ed Bethune's bill, HR 2917, to designate 11 areas in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests as wilderness.

As you are well aware, wilderness designation does not require the purchase or condemnation of private property, but rather changes the management practices on existing federally owned lands so that the unique perishable quality that we refer to as "wilderness" is preserved. Such changes require careful planning and deliberation. In developing the proposal to designate these 11 areas, the Arkansas Conservation Coalition worked long and diligently to make sure that their recommendations were well founded and represented a reasonable solution to preserving wilderness in Arkansas. We would also like to take this opportunity to commend Congressman Bethune for his careful study analysis of options and his continuing consultation with diverse interest groups regarding HR 2917. I'm sure the thoroughness of this preparation is evident in the facts and figures being presented here today.

As we have worked with citizens throughout Arkansas, we have found a great deal of support for preserving these 11 areas, encompassing approximately 138,000 acres. This support has been expressed not only by the expected conservationists, but also by local citizens and landowners who are justly proud of their "natural" state.

However, changes or proposed changes regarding resource management and conservation issues seem to invariably create controversy and opposition. The Arkansas Conservation Coalition team has worked hard to resolve problems and has paid particular attention to the desires of local citizens and landowners. We have found opposition invariably develops as a result of a fear of change based on misinformation or a lack of information. We have also found that once people really understand what is involved, they change from opponents to supporters.

I would like to cite one specific example. On May 4, 1982, at the hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the proposed Belle Starr and Dry Creek Wilderness areas, local citizens voiced opposition based on misunderstandings about economic issues, condemnation and purchase of private lands, and vehicular access. At the same time, they expressed a desire to see these two areas protected from adverse development. Immediately following the hearing we approached some of the community leaders and discussed our mutual desire and our initial differing view points. This and subsequent meetings, including a tour into the Belle Starr area, led to a

compromise agreement that modified the proposed boundaries and allowed access along very primitive roads to Poteau Mountain. In return, local citizens supported designation of both the Dry Creek area and the Belle Starr area, which we now refer to as the Poteau Mountain Wilderness. In June 1982, Margaret Chapman, Mayor of Mansfield, sent a letter on behalf of the local citizens to the Ouachita National Forest that withdrew their previous testimony and endorsed this compromise proposal.

In the proposed East Fork wilderness we have recently agreed to boundary adjustments that were suggested by local citizens who were very knowledgeable about local usage. We have also attempted in every case to reduce or avoid private inholdings by judicious choice of boundaries.

I wish to conclude by saying we have planned carefully, worked to be considerate of local concerns, respected the rights of private landowners and remained flexible in developing this modest proposal.

We feel that preserving anything less than these proposed 11 areas, which when added to existing wilderness represents less than 2/3 of 1 percent of Arkansas' land, would be denying a natural heritage to existing and future generations.

Thank you.

Arkansas Audubon Society Record

No. 8 Brooks Drive
Rogers, AR 72756
May 19, 1983

Statement of Florence Mallard and Ellen Neaville

On behalf of Arkansas Audubon Society, a statewide affiliate of the National Audubon Society to the Public Land and National Parks and Forests, Family Farms and Energy Subcommittees, May 26, 1983.

Arkansas Audubon Society favors Congressman Ed Bethune's bill, HR 2917, which provides wilderness designation for eleven of our state's most outstanding areas. Without public expense or condemnation of private lands, these areas will be protected from development giving this and future generations a place to hike, fish, hunt and enjoy the best of Arkansas' forests.

We feel it is very important to protect these small segments of the National Forests in Arkansas. The total Wilderness Areas in Arkansas would then be less than six percent of National Forest land in the state and less than two thirds of one percent of Arkansas' land. The remaining 94 percent of Arkansas' National Forests will remain in multiple use management and can surely continue to fulfill the resource needs as they have in the past.

Thank you for your careful consideration of HR 2917.

Ellen Neaville
Ellen Neaville
President

Florence Mallard
Florence Mallard
Conservation Chairman

☆ **City Of Russellville** Arkansas 72801

Second & Commerce Street • P.O. Box 428 • (501) 968-2098

"Garden City of the Arkansas River Valley"

May 23, 1983

The Honorable Charles O. Whitley
Chairman Subcommittee on Forests,
Family Farms and Energy
Rm 1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Whitley:

As the Mayor of Russellville, Arkansas, I would like to state to you my personal opposition to HR 2571 which will establish a wilderness area in our national forest.

The national forest as managed by the Forest Service is a resource that is fully being utilized by the people in our area. These managed forest lands serve a great need for the people of this area most economically and as a well-used recreation outlet.

To set aside 140,000 acres of this great natural resource from the people of this area would be a tragic event. In my opinion any resource, especially a complicated resource such as our forest land, is vastly improved through proper management by trained professional people. This is what we have in our national forest lands in Arkansas.

To allow 140,000 acres of this great resource to our land to revert back to its unmanageable condition would indeed be a tragic error. Therefore, I urge that HR 2571 be defeated.

Sincerely,


W. H. Hashbarger
Mayor

WHH:bl

OKLAHOMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Rt. 1, Box 157
Durant, OK 74701

May 24, 1983

Congressman Charles O. Whitley, Chairman
Subcommittee on Forest, Family Farms, & Energy
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

HR 2452 HR 2917

Dear Congressman Whitley:

We would like the following statement attached to the record of hearings on the following Wilderness bills: HR 2452 and HR 2917.

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society strongly supports the designation of the KIAMICHI and BLACK PORK MOUNTAIN areas in Oklahoma and Arkansas as Wilderness. While both areas are currently defacto wildernesses, it is felt that designation as such would assure their continued preservation through the next century.

Both of these areas were recommended for designation as wilderness by the National Forest Service. Public comments were in favor of designation of these two areas as wilderness: 89% and 90% respectively.

The two above bills have placed us in a quandry. While HR 2452 contains the Oklahoma wilderness areas, it also contains release language which we do not favor. Favorable release language is in HR 2917, however it contains only the Arkansas portions of the Kiamichi and Black Fork Mountain wilderness areas. We hope this bill will be amended to include our Oklahoma areas.

We support these wilderness areas for the following reasons.

1. Oklahoma has very little natural lands left for preservation and essentially no wilderness.
2. The Kiamichi area particularly contains many interesting plant and animal species whose occurrence in Oklahoma is mostly in these mountains.
3. These wildernesses would be the closest such areas to the Oklahoma City and Dallas-Ft. Worth metropolitan areas. The average citizen is about 250 miles from a wilderness. These cities are currently further than average from a wilderness experience.
4. Wilderness designation would preserve the stream quality of the upper Kiamichi River.
5. US Forest Service studies show that designation of these areas as wilderness would have no adverse impact on the timber industry in Oklahoma.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Dr. Connie Taylor,
Conservation Chairman

cc: Representative Wes Watkins
Governor George Nigh



Weyerhaeuser Company

P.O. Box 1080
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

June 13, 1983

*Rec'd 11:10 AM
JUN 14 1983*

Please add this letter to the hearing record regarding HR 2452, the Arkansas and Oklahoma Wilderness Act of 1983 (Anthony) and HR 2917, the Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1983 (Bethune).

In my role as Vice-President of Weyerhaeuser Company's Arkansas Region I am responsible for the profitable management of almost 1 million acres of timberland and the 8 converting and sales facilities and 3,000 employees those acres support. I have both a company and a citizen interest in the management of the National Forests, including wilderness. It is in the spirit of helping you find the best solution for Arkansas that I submit these comments on the wilderness issue.

Let me say up front that I am not opposed to more wilderness for Arkansas -- nor is Weyerhaeuser Company. We have consistently held that position. We are interested in the quality and location and qualifications of the additional wilderness areas -- and in the intelligent management of National Forests as a whole.

Congress has the opportunity, in the form of these two bills, to select and shape a future for the National Forests in Arkansas that fits and serves the needs and desires of the majority of the people of Arkansas. One of my purposes in this testimony is to recall to your attention some of the available evidence as to what those majority needs and desires are.

But first, what kind of state is Arkansas? Arkansas really is "a natural" ---- rich beyond measure in the opportunity for the outdoor experience: 2,476,487 acres of United States Forest Service lands managed for multiple use with 48 attendant developed forest recreation areas, two existing wilderness areas totalling 24,975 acres, a National Park, a National River, three National Memorials, 44 state parks, 19 major Corps of Engineer projects with developed recreational facilities, over 270,000 acres in state-owned wildlife management areas, 4.1 million acres of industrial forests managed in varying degrees of intensity and largely open to public use, plus 9.5 million acres of diversely-managed forest lands owned by 160,000 individual citizens. So, the citizens of Arkansas and its thousands of visitors are hardly deprived now of opportunities for outdoor experiences ranging from wilderness on one end of the continuum to posh lakeside resorts on the other.

The other Arkansas is one of deprivation -- the lack of an opportunity, to put it plainly, to make a decent living. This is a historic and very real problem in Arkansas. Ironically, it was this kind of poverty and despair that made much of the land available to create the National Forests in Arkansas decades ago. The average annual per capita income in Arkansas today is \$8,300, 49th in the nation! It hardly needs saying for those thousands of citizens at or below that income level, that the thought of limiting the productivity of any resource to any degree is unthinkable nonsense.

What this picture suggests in the current wilderness debate is balance and an Arkansas fit. I believe that balance and fit is available in the proposed legislation and will serve and be supported by a majority of Arkansas citizens. Far and away the better balance and fit is available in HR 2452, Congressman Anthony's bill. I want to offer evidence to support that position.

1. Studied and Approved for Wilderness: The nearest thing to a forum or poll ever conducted on this issue were the exhaustive (and expensive) RARE I and RARE II processes. . . two elaborate and impressive studies established by Congress itself. My understanding is that, on the whole, the "voice" of the people of Arkansas said, "We don't want any more wilderness, but if we do have to have any more wilderness, these are the areas, as reflected in the Forest Service recommendation, that fit." I believe Congress should feel some obligation to honor the results of its own processes. In my opinion, there is no better measure of the people's needs and desires than what has emerged from the exhaustive RARE II study?
2. Better Fits the Wilderness Criteria: The areas proposed in HR 2452 would better accommodate the true wilderness experience. Most of the proposed areas are essentially unroaded and contain no in-holdings. Lost timber production potential would be minimal.
3. Release Language in HR 2452 is Logical for Efficient Forest Management: As a manager of a large forest myself, I am more sensitive than most laymen to the long-term nature of the forest crop. Decisions made (or delayed) today affect production 25-50 years from now. Tying the hands of our forest managers for the past several years of wilderness study has been very expensive to the owners (all U.S. citizens) but necessary, perhaps, to the study. To continue it would be wasteful and unnecessary.
4. Arkansas People will Support HR 2452: Except for those citizens who oppose any additional wilderness, it is my impression that the majority of citizens are ready to close ranks in support of the wilderness areas added to the system by HR 2452. One reason for

this is the fact -- mostly obscured, I fear -- that the majority of citizens I know trust the Forest Service and like the way they manage the forests and, therefore, believe the comprehensive RARE II process adequately weighed the benefits and values of potential wilderness areas.

The picture of Arkansas I painted for you earlier -- a state rich now in outdoor opportunities of all varieties, but poor in economic horizons -- is the Arkansas I believe you want to fit your wilderness choices into. Many features of HR 2917 violate that aim. I offer these points to support that position.

1. Abandons and/or Ignores the RARE II Recommendations: There is reason here for serious reflection by Congress, I believe, about the implications of fostering a thorough, elaborate and extensive system like RARE I and RARE II, to invite and encourage citizen participation and then to ignore the findings. To do so is more than a mere affront. It erodes the citizens' faith in the whole system. HR 2917 ignores the system by not only greatly enlarging several of the recommended areas, but by adding three (3) areas that were studied and rejected under the RARE II process. Even more seriously, HR 2917 adds one area that was not even considered eligible for study under RARE II -- a decision that was never questioned until recently, to my knowledge. I repeat that, to me, this is the most serious flaw in HR 2917. I don't know any other places in our society where changing the rules in the middle of the game is considered cricket. Also, this action suggests that the wilderness issue will never end -- will be subject to change every session of Congress. That situation will not be good for wilderness, the forests or Congress.
2. HR 2917 Goes Too Far in Wilderness: To add almost 120,000 additional acres to the wilderness system in Arkansas seems a ludicrous way to manage Arkansas' National Forests. Real wilderness is exceptional -- different. Several of the areas proposed in HR 2917 simply would not be good examples of wilderness. Penhook, Leatherwood, East Fork and Flatside, in addition to containing significant timber value, contain roads, private inholdings, pine plantations, cemeteries and other evidence of past activities. Their inclusion in the Arkansas wilderness system is inappropriate. To designate these areas as wilderness is to make a mockery of the wilderness concept of pristine and exceptional. In addition, there is opposition from the neighbors.
3. We are Especially Opposed to the Inclusion of Flatside in the Wilderness System: In addition to the reasons above, I, in speaking for Weyerhaeuser Company, am particularly opposed to the inclusion of Flatside in the Arkansas wilderness system. Some specific reasons are;

- o Concern for our own lands. Weyerhaeuser Company owns 5,000 acres of intensively-managed forestland adjoining and/or within one mile of the Flatside boundary -- clearly visible from many points in Flatside. We have concern that if Flatside is declared a wilderness, public pressures will be brought to apply new laws and regulations to extend the non-management regime to adjacent private lands, via buffer zones, protected vistas, etc.
- o We object to the loss of opportunity to receive the full array of benefits from multiple-use management of Flatside. Flatside contains substantial volumes of good timber. The area has been well managed and productive in the past and can continue to be. We object to the revenue, job and product loss to the citizens of Arkansas which would result from needlessly taking this area out of production.
- o Designation as Class I area would adversely affect Central Arkansas. A Flatside Wilderness area could be declared a Class I area under PL 95-95. This designation could place severe constraints on potential future growth and development which is a direct loss to all the citizens of Arkansas.
- o Finally, There is No Need for a Flatside Wilderness Designation. Calling Flatside a wilderness won't ever make it a wilderness -- and there is no need for that meaningless (in this case) designation. It is currently more of a playground than a wilderness. It is roaded on three sides, including some all weather roads. It is bisected by a marked and publicized hiking trail. It is regularly hunted. An annual, ultra-marathon race is conducted across Flatside. With additional publicity, these activities are sure to expand.

Normal U.S.F.S. management (multiple use) has produced this area as it is today. It will continue to produce an esthetically-pleasing area without wilderness status.

In summary, HR 2452 best fits Arkansas' needs and desires. It is a balanced allocation of our National Forest lands and will add a degree of finality to this ongoing debate. I urge you to reconsider the appropriateness of the final recommendations made by the most comprehensive study of the wilderness issue ever done, RARE II, and to enact HR 2452.

Respectfully submitted,



L. E. Endicott
Vice President, Arkansas Region
Weyerhaeuser Company

/rm



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